



Union members call for Gaddafi cash inquiry

Libyan affair 'vicious lies' says Scargill

By Tim Jones, Peter Davenport and Richard Ford

Mr Arthur Scargill, the president of the National Union of Mineworkers, vigorously denied yesterday that Libyan money was used to pay off mortgages on his home and that of the union's general secretary.

He denied also that any money from Colonel Gaddafi's regime was used to sustain the bitter year-long dispute — but admitted meeting Tripoli officials during the miners' strike in 1984.

Mr Scargill was responding to allegations in the *Daily Mirror* that the NUM received £163,000 in strike support from Libya and denounced as "vicious lies" a claim that he and Mr Peter Heathfield, the union general secretary, used

money from Libya to pay personal debts. Amid growing calls for a full inquiry into the affair, Mr Scargill said he would be making a report to a special meeting of the NUM national executive committee, probably on Friday.

Despite his robust and detailed denials of the allegations surrounding his handling of the strike, some

NUM statement... 3
Libyan meeting... 3
Leading article... 15

members of his union were clearly not satisfied and demanded a full investigation into the affair.

Mr Kevin Bacon, MP for Rother Valley, Labour's spokesman on the coal industry and an ex-officio member of the NUM's executive committee, said: "The many thousands of striking miners and their families who suffered during, and for years after, the 1984-85 strike will want to know how all donations and loans were used and under whose authority."

He said that any investigation should examine how the accounts were set up and how they were run.

Mr Bacon added: "If there are any donations or loans which have not been paid back into the NUM's general fund and are still in separate bank accounts, then the account payees should give a full and detailed statement explaining why this situation exists."

The call for an inquiry was backed by Dr Kim Howells, Labour MP for Pontypool and a former NUM research officer. He said: "Mr Scargill must be treated like any other NUM member by any inquiry which is set up. He is going to

be the man with the most information and he has got to be ready to answer the questions."

As Mr Scargill issued a statement answering and refuting, point by point, the allegations in the *Daily Mirror*, Mr Robert Maxwell, the newspaper's publisher, challenged him to sue for libel if the story linking the miners' leader with Libyan cash was wrong.

Mr Scargill said that the matter is in the hands of his solicitors.

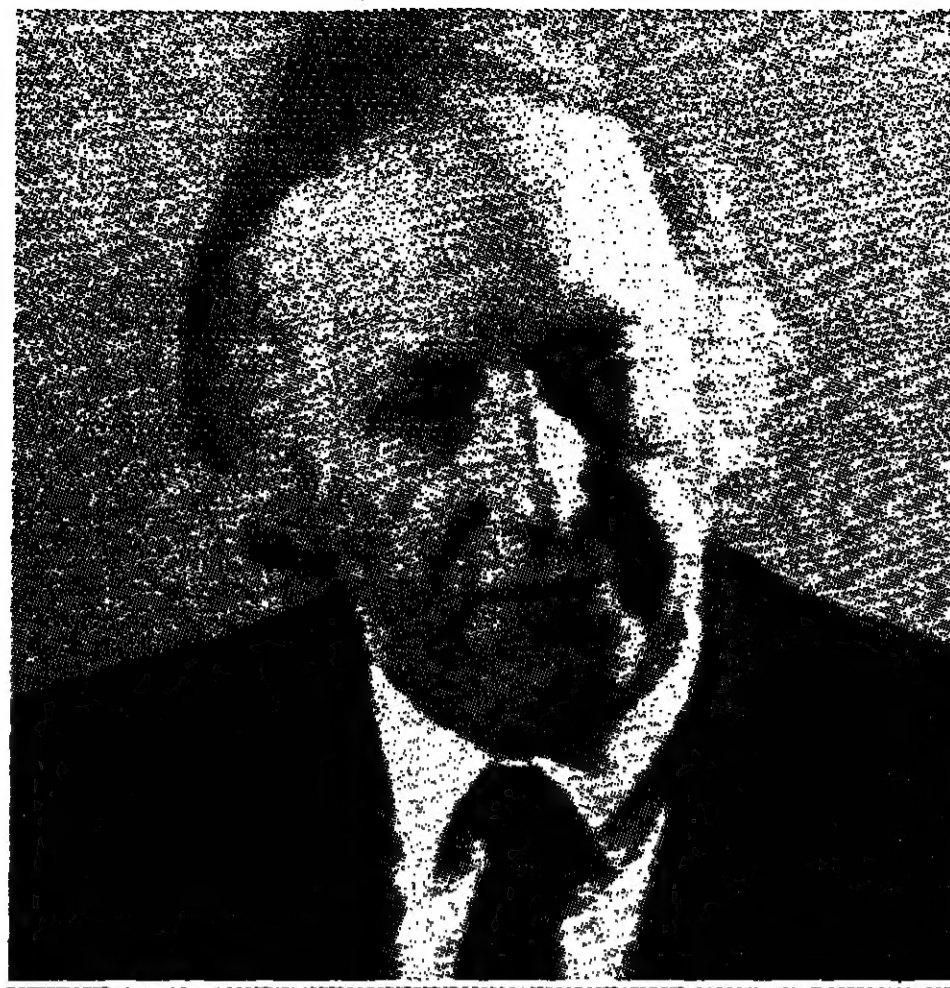
In his statement, the NUM president said that, to the knowledge of the national officials of the union, no monies were received from Libya during or since the strike.

He declared: "If it is true that the former chief executive officer, Roger Windsor, did obtain monies from Libyan sources, then he lied about it at the time to the national officials. If it is not true, then he is lying about it now to the *Daily Mirror*."

No union money or money donated for union members for hardship purposes was used for the personal needs of the national officials, he said.

Mr Scargill said that only contact he or national officials had with any representatives claiming to be from Libya was when Mr Windsor had introduced "a man named Abbes" at the 1984 Labour Party conference.

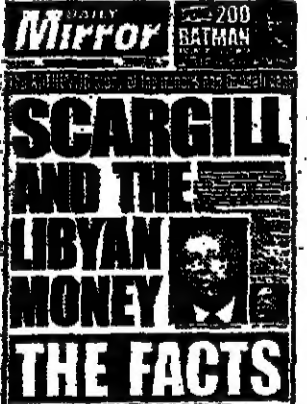
According to the *Mirror*, it was Muntaz Abbes, a Pakistani shopkeeper in Doncaster, who set up the Libyan connection, and a meeting in Paris on October 8, 1984, at the headquarters of the Confédération Générale du Travail, the trade union umbrella.



Key players: Mr Arthur Scargill and Mr Roger Windsor, former NUM chief executive officer.

'Sue if we are wrong' challenge by Maxwell

By Richard Evans
Media Editor



Yesterday's *Mirror* front page.

Mr Robert Maxwell, publisher of the *Daily Mirror*, last night challenged Mr Arthur Scargill to sue for libel if the newspaper's detailed story linking the miners' leader with Libyan cash was wrong.

He said it was the most significant national story printed by the *Daily Mirror* since he acquired it in July 1984. "It is a great story."

The lengthy denial issued by Mr Scargill yesterday in response to the newspaper's

allegations was "very convoluted", Mr Maxwell added. "We stand by the *Daily Mirror* story totally."

The newspaper publisher accepted that the revelations would upset what he described as the Bennite wing of the Labour Party but insisted that most Labour Party supporters were honest, decent people who believed trade unions and their leaders should be as open and frank with their members as they should be with the public.

The detailed charges made against the miners' leader

were the result of a classic piece of investigative journalism and were in no way an unacceptable breach of Mr Scargill's privacy. "This is a story massively in the public interest and if it is in the public interest you don't deserve privacy," he said.

"If we are wrong we challenge him to sue us. You are entitled to privacy if you are an ordinary, straightforward person. But if like Mr Scargill you have tried to bring down an elected constitutional government of the country and if, like Mr Scargill, you have

led the Guards division of the trade union movement to defeat, your conduct is a matter of public interest and of the greatest importance."

The inquiry into the Libyan connection began last October and has involved six journalists and a photographer who visited several countries to piece together the story. Mr Roy Greenslade, editor of the *Daily Mirror* since last month, last night paid tribute to his predecessor, Mr Richard Stott, who gave the go-ahead for the project.

Thatcher to delay exit of Walker until the summer

By Philip Webster and Nicholas Wood

Mr Peter Walker's departure from the Cabinet is expected to be delayed until the early summer when it could form part of Mrs Margaret Thatcher's last government reshuffle before a general election.

Whitehall sources say that Mr Walker and Mrs Thatcher agreed on Sunday that he should stay on for "months rather than weeks".

Senior Conservative MPs expect that Mrs Thatcher will use the occasion to complete her election team with limited changes in the Cabinet and wider changes in the lower ranks to bring on fresh talent.

Mr David Hunt, the Local Government Minister and MP for Wirral West, emerged yesterday as a strong candidate to take Mr Walker's place. Mrs Thatcher is unlikely to want to move him while the community charge controversy is at its height.

Mr William Waldegrave, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, is the other candidate favoured by Tory MPs.

News of Bank of England intervention to help steady the pound after the weekend's events further intensified alarm among Tory MPs who feared that it might harm Mr John Major's Budget strategy.

Labour sought to exploit the Government's embarrassment as campaigning began in earnest in the Mid-Staffordshire by-election.

Meanwhile, Mr Hugh Dykes, Conservative MP for Harrow East, became the first MP to suggest publicly there might be another leadership challenge to Mrs Thatcher this



lems, such as inflation, interest rates and the economy. Mr Biffen said the poll tax could bring "considerable peril" to the Government if an election were held next week.

Mr Walker yesterday played down any damage his decision to resign had caused to a Government already under intense pressure over the poll tax. "I firmly believe it is a patch the Government is going through from which it will emerge exceedingly well," he said.

By-election report, page 11

Letters, page 15

Poll tax protest, page 22

Sterling's decline puts pressure on Chancellor

By Our Economics Staff

Sterling fell sharply on the foreign exchanges yesterday and had to be supported by the Bank of England for the first time in several weeks.

At the end of trading the pound was down 1.0 to 87.7 on its trade-weighted index, reflecting a fall of 1.6 cents to \$1.6390 against the dollar and 4.39 pence to DM2.7922 against the mark.

The pound's fall dragged the stock market down in its wake. By the close the FT-SE

100 index had fallen 24.3 points to 2,230.5.

The fall in sterling puts additional pressure on the Chancellor, Mr John Major, to deliver a prudent Budget.

Currency markets were also upset by the latest figures for consumer credit in Britain, which showed a £535 million rise in the total amount outstanding during January.

Leading article, page 15

Details, page 23

Stock markets, page 26

Kohl stands firm on Poland

By Our Foreign Staff

Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, last night remained defiant about his two controversial new preconditions for guaranteeing the present western border of Poland.

But despite strong backing from his Christian Democrats (CDU) his attitude has infuriated leaders of the Free Democrats, junior partners in the government coalition, and the CDU risks being deserted by them when the opposition Social Democrats force a debate on the issue in the Bundestag on Thursday. Far

from altering his stance in the face of domestic and international criticism, Herr Kohl emerged from a two-hour meeting of the CDU presidium to claim that he would be "criminally negligent" in carrying out his duties as

Full report... 10

Chancellor if he abandoned his latest claims.

Therefore, he said, recognition of the present western Polish border must "lie on the table" along with his demand that Poland must promise not

to ask for any further war reparations and must sign a treaty guaranteeing the cultural rights of the 500,000 to 700,000 ethnic Germans who are still living in what is now western Poland.

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, last night threw his weight behind Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister.

He said Herr Genscher's position in public was the same as his own: that Poland was entitled to the legal instrument of a treaty guaranteeing its frontier.

£1.5bn to end dumping

By Michael McCarthy, Environment Correspondent

Britain will spend £1.5 billion to end the discharging of raw sewage into the sea over the next decade, Mr Chris Patten, the Secretary of State for the Environment, said yesterday.

The sea dumping of sludge from treated sewage will also be stopped by 1993, at a cost of £180-£200 million. Mr Patten unveiled his ambitious measures in advance of the Third North Sea Conference which opens in The Hague tomorrow.

Mr Patten said the £1.7 billion measures will add 6 per cent to water bills over the 10 years it will take to implement

them. "I don't think anybody swimming off our beaches is going to regard that as being an excessive price to pay," he said. The water industry said, however, that the measures will cost a further £800 million.

The minister said the phasing-out of the incineration of waste at sea would be completed this year, four years early. Publication of the UK action plan for meeting the improvement targets set at the Second North Sea Conference, held in 1987, would also be brought forward.

Photograph, page 2

Browne faces four-week Commons suspension

By Philip Webster
Chief Political Correspondent



Mr Browne: Key allegations against him were upheld.

Mr John Browne tomorrow faces a four-week suspension from the Commons without pay for failing to declare business interests in the MPs' register. The penalty was proposed in a motion tabled last night by Sir Geoffrey Howe, Leader of the House, after talks with the opposition parties.

But amendments were expected to be tabled for tomorrow's full-day debate demanding a tougher sentence for the Conservative MP for Winchester. The select committee on members' interests, whose report resulted in the finding that Mr Browne had failed to declare interests, is being asked to tighten the rules governing declaration. Sir Geof-

frey's motion asks the committee, to report first on "the definition of outside interests and the enforcement of obligations in relation to declarations of outside interests by Honourable Members" and secondly, on "the procedures whereby complaints may be brought before the select committee and whereby the select committee investigates such complaints".

Mr Browne, in line with precedent where the conduct of MPs has been subject to criticism from colleagues, is expected to make a statement at the start of the debate. But the punishment eventually decided upon will throw further doubt on his political future. Ministers had been hoping for an announcement from Mr Browne that he would not be standing again at the next

election. Tomorrow's vote is likely to be seen as a signal to his constituency association to drop him as their candidate.

The committee upheld two crucial allegations against Mr Browne involving a payment of more than \$88,000 (£55,000) from the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency and his "client" relationship with a firm of Lebanese middlemen controlled by Mr Charles Chidiac.

Senior Conservative MPs and the Government have not been pressing Mr Browne to resign for fear of a politically damaging by-election. But some MPs felt that a declaration by him that he would not be standing again would ease the situation. The nine-month investigation dismissed some of the complaints against Mr Browne.

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INDEX

Home News	22-26
Business	27-28
Sport	40-44
Arts	18
Births, marriages, deaths	17
Court & Social	16
Crosswords	20-22
Diary	14
Fashion	19
Features	12-14
Law report	32
Leading articles	15
Legal	33-34
Letters	15
Obituary	18
Parliament	11
Preview	20
Saleroom	5
Science report	15
Snow Report	42
TV & Radio	21
Weather	18
Wills	18

NEWS ROUNDUP

Maternity leave call for solicitors

Solicitors' firms are urged to allow women to take nine months of maternity leave and return to work part-time in a report entitled, *Women and the Recruitment Crisis* (Francis Gibb writes).

The report, drawn up by a committee of the Bristol Law Society, will go before a meeting of the national Law Society's working party on March 20. The society is to consider whether it should adopt its proposals as guidelines.

A few years ago, Mr Jonathan Goldsmith, secretary of the committee, said, women were regarded as "good work-horses, but not partnership timber". Now, firms were competing to attract women trainees.

The report recommends nine months' maternity leave regardless of length of service, and for a salary above the statutory minimum. On return to work, it urges that women be allowed nine months of part-time work before resuming full duties and examines the options of working from home, job-share, "flexitime" and three-day weeks. The Law Society is already pressing for tax relief on child care expenses.

Concern at £25m fees

An accountant speculated that secret illegal payments were made after a share support operation mounted to see Guinness win its £2.7 billion bid for Distillers, Southwark. Crown Court was told yesterday.

Mr Alan Bailey, former Guinness chief accountant, said he was concerned the invoices were used to disguise £25 million in illicit success fees and indemnities for supporters of the bid. He said that in November 1986, before a Department of Trade and Industry inquiry, he thought the payments might breach the 1985 Companies Act.

Army race hearing set

Mr Winston Lindsay, a black former Guardsman who claims he suffered 10 months of bullying by barracks-room racists, will bring the first case of racial discrimination against the armed forces at a five-day industrial tribunal starting on April 23. At a private meeting at the tribunal offices in London yesterday, it was decided that two confidential documents belonging to the Ministry of Defence would be put forward at the tribunal.

Hotel bookings ban

Pickfords Business Travel yesterday suspended bookings to Sheraton hotels after the fire at Helopolis, Cairo, last week in which 19 people died (Robin Young writes). Pickfords say the bookings will stay suspended until the company is reassured about safety standards at other Sheraton hotels.

Widow wins damages

A firm of solicitors admitted negligence yesterday in pursuing a damages claim for a widow and agreed to pay her £117,500 damages. Patinson and Brewer, of Chatham, Kent, said the original legal action by Mrs Joyce O'Reilly, of Tilbury, Essex, against her late husband's employer would never have succeeded. The High Court in London was told that a writ was not issued until six years after he was diagnosed as suffering from an industrial injury.

Bully 'helpline' opens

A national telephone counselling service to help bullies and their victims was launched yesterday by Esther Rantzen, the TV presenter and chairman of ChildLine (Libby Jules writes). The two-month initiative is an extension of ChildLine, which has already helped more than 81,000 people. Since it was set up three years ago, bullying has produced the fifth largest category of calls and is estimated to affect about 15 per cent of the school population.

Prize adds to car fund

There were two winners in yesterday's £4,000 Portfolio Platinum competition.

Mrs May Phillips of Wimbledon, south-west London, said that the money came as a late present for her 49th birthday, which she celebrated last Friday. "It will boost the car fund I have just started with my two children," she added.

She shares the prize with Mr Barry Harris, from Hornchurch, Essex, who will put his winnings towards the family holiday. Each receives £2,000.

PORTFOLIO



Mrs Phillips: Late present

Two landowners will pay poll tax for staff

By Ray Clancy

Two of the richest men in Britain are to pay thousands of pounds in poll tax for their employees because they don't want them to be out of pocket. The Marquess of Bath, one of Mrs Thatcher's greatest admirers, whose £200 million fortune matches that of the Prince of Wales, has announced that he is to pay the tax for 70 employees living on his Longleat estate in Wiltshire, at a cost of £28,000.

The Duke of Westminster, officially described as the country's richest man, estimated to be worth £3.2 billion, will pay the bills for staff at Eaton Hall, his home near Chester, and on his estate at Abbeystead, near Lancaster, which will total over £35,500.

Lord Bath, aged 85, who has a room dedicated to the Prime Minister in which he houses one of the

largest collections of "Maggie memorabilia", said he is in favour of the tax but realizes it will cause a lot of hardship. "I know that some of my workers will find it hard to find the money," he said. "They will be worse off because of the poll tax and I feel sorry for them so I am just doing them a favour. We will just have to draw in our horns and tighten our belts."

The poll tax bill for the 70 cottages will be around £24,000 from West Wiltshire district council. The authority is expected to set its charge at £340 on Thursday but Lord Bath is set to pay them each £400 to cover the charge at a cost of £28,000.

Lord Bath has to pay his own charge and the new business charge for the safari park. In the past he paid the rates on the cottages which last year averaged £300.

The Duke of Westminster used to pay almost £12,000 in rates and is set to pay £417 poll tax for each of his 65 staff at Eaton Hall and £385 for each of his 22 staff at Abbeystead which comes to almost £24,000 more than he paid in rates.

Mr Brian Bowden, the Duke's agent at Abbeystead, said he was paying the bills because he does not like the poll tax. "He is determined to ease the burden for his staff," he said.

In both cases the bills will be paid as part of the employees' wages and they will have to pay income tax on the "gift".

Elsewhere in the country poll tax protesters are preparing to pay their bills in a variety of odd ways including writing cheques on slabs of concrete.

Mr Alan Debenham, leader of Taunton anti-poll tax group, said

the plan is to cause maximum disruption but remain within the law. Some people plan to turn up at the payment counter with bags of coins.

A spokesman for the Department of the Environment said it was up to the individual community charge officer on each council to decide whether or not to accept payment made in an unusual way. Each officer can decide whether to accept a cheque written on, for instance, the side of a fish. "In the past ratepayers have tried to pay in a variety of unusual ways and this will be no different," he said.

A monthly newsletter circulated in Devon and Cornwall by an anti-poll tax group lists ways of delaying payment of the poll tax including forgetting to sign cheques.

Mr Ray Cornforth, an organizer, said many life-long Conservative

voters have turned against the party because of the new charge.

The group - People Against the Poll Tax - has linked up with other protesters in Maidenhead, Weymouth and Scotland. They are producing videos, swastikas and car stickers to raise funds and are ready to pay the legal costs of people in the area who end up in court for failing to pay.

Mr Henk Kuhlman of Halesowen, Essex, said yesterday that he was going to pay his tax bill in 1p pieces. He plans to take 70,086 coins to Braintree district council to pay for the bill for himself and his wife to protest at what he considers an unfair tax.

Mr Fred Swallow, the council's assistant community charge registration officer, said the pennies would be difficult to transport to the bank but would be accepted.

Union picket line jeers as Ford workers end strike

By Ronald Faux

Union pickets jeered and chanted insults at thousands of Ford car workers who walked past them yesterday to resume work at the Halewood plant, Merseyside.

The unprecedented crossing of picket lines mounted by engineers and electricians ended a seven-week strike at the dual body and assembly plant that has cost the company £430 million in lost production.

There were angry scenes at the plant gates as manual workers, members of the Transport and General Workers' Union, clocked on for two shifts. Each gate to the plant was manned by more than 100 pickets who jeered workmates who returned to work.

A small number of police kept watch with reinforcements close by but there was no violence. Support for the strike had dwindled, with only 400 members of the AEU and EETPU still out.

They were involved in two separate disputes on conditions attached to the pay deal, claiming differentials were being eroded and that semi-skilled workers were being trained to do jobs that were traditionally their preserve.

Mr Peter Moore, TGWU convenor at Halewood, said: "It was just a loser as it stands now. They have not got the support up and down the country they thought they would have and consequently that has destroyed them."

Most other Ford plants supplied by Halewood have managed to continue production, although some workers at Southampton were laid off.

A mass meeting of electricians and engineers tomorrow will decide whether the strike should continue.

Ford said a big investment programme at Halewood was behind schedule. "The strike

is now seen to be futile and we are hoping for a full return to work in the near future."

The EETPU said last night that 497 of its members voted to continue the strike and 368 wanted to call it off. Plants at Halewood and the engineering and bodybuilding plants at Dagenham, east London, were in favour of remaining on strike. Shop stewards would meet this morning.

The influential Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders warned the Government last night not to mount a Budget tax offensive against cars in its drive to cut pollution and please environmentalists (Our Motoring Correspondent writes from Geneva).

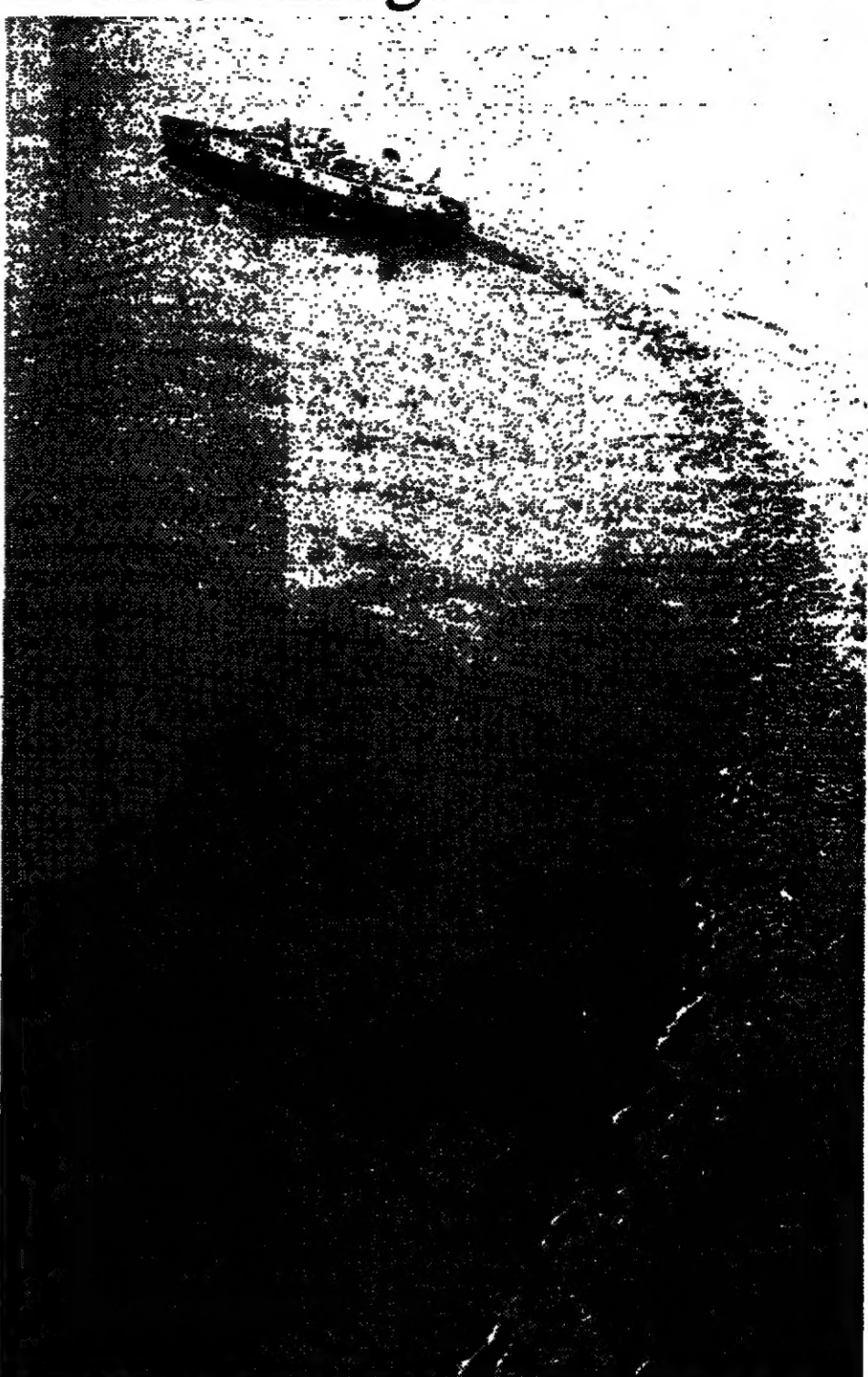
Mr Geoffrey Whalen said that a vocal minority was attracting great publicity but was not interested in better roads or by-passes for the benefit of Britain, but just wanted people to give up using cars.

He said Britain had fewer cars per head of population than West Germany, France and Italy. As the nation became more prosperous, it would demand more cars.

Speaking on the eve of the Geneva Motor Show, Mr Whalen said: "The question should not be whether governments should be encouraged to tax vehicles out of existence since that is not an objective which the consumer is seeking. What we should be discussing is whether the reduction in pollution caused by motor vehicles is proceeding at a rapid enough pace."

The motor industry knows only too well that government has to be seen to encourage improvements to the environment. We understand that and we approve of it but we merely ask that our industry is consulted and allowed to play a constructive part in bringing about those improvements."

Trail of sludge in North Sea



A Thames Water Authority dumper spreading an arc of waste as it dumps tonnes of treated sewage sludge into the North Sea just 20 miles from Clacton, Essex, at a site called Barrow Deep.

The ship, Bexley, with two other vessels, sails with every tide and deposits about 2,000 tonnes of sewage at each sailing. It makes a round trip of 50 miles from two major sewage works to Barrow Deep and once it arrives at Barrow Deep, dumps the sewage into the sea,

leaving a grimy surface trail in its wake. Thames Water has three ships dumping the treated sewage and between them will make more than 2,000 sailings a year, depending on weather conditions.

Most of the sewage comes from 4.4 million Londoners and the three ships together dump 4.5 million tonnes each year. The volume of the sludge and its concentration is controlled by law and in recent years its contamination has been reduced.

MP to quit Labour in protest on charge

By Kerry Gill

Mr Dick Douglas, Labour MP for Dunfermline West, is to leave the party in protest over its stance on the community charge. He is considering standing against an official Labour candidate in the forthcoming regional council elections.

He made an announcement to his constituency party late on Sunday, saying that he was keeping his options open but was almost certain to fight as an official candidate for a seat on Fife Regional Council.

Mr Douglas, who became an MP in 1970, has already said he would not stand for Parliament at the next general election. There has been speculation that he might join the Scottish National Party to support the nationalist policy of non-payment of the poll tax.

Mr Douglas has been a vociferous critic of Labour's policy of abolishing the poll tax once it achieves government, but urging people to remain within the law and pay in the meantime.

Mr Douglas said if he stood in the elections it would be on a platform of non-payment of the poll tax. His constituency has now chosen a candidate to fight the general election.

He said yesterday: "I will be supporting an attitude of disobedience."

"I will be standing to fight that, having tried everything else against the Thatcher poll tax, we have to take a very firm view that the tax is unworkable and it is a failure to try and make it work."

A spokesman for the Labour Party in Scotland said that Mr Douglas's decision to leave would be no great loss.

Mr James Allison, the party's Scottish organizer, said that before his last re-election he was regarded by many people as a right-winger. "Now he has shifted towards the left wing, running with the poll tax non-payment lobby," he said.

Pesticide safety

Checks may wait 20 years, Labour says

By Michael Horsby
Agriculture Correspondent

Forty-one per cent of the chemical ingredients in pesticides now in use were last tested for safety more than 25 years ago, and it could be another 20 years or more before they have all been re-examined, it was claimed yesterday.

By failing to devote sufficient resources to pesticide review, the Government had created a "logjam" in which older, and possibly less safe, chemicals were continuing to be used while the approval of newer and environmentally friendlier ones was being held up, Dr David Clark,

Labour's agriculture spokesman, said. "The Government's clear lack of commitment to the review and approval procedure is threatening the farmer, our wildlife, our water supplies and even the safety of the food we eat," he said.

A survey of pesticide manufacturers conducted by Dr Clark found that they were having to wait between three and five years to have new chemical ingredients approved. ICI and Bayer had each had only one new ingredient approved since 1986 and Hoechst, BASF, Shell and Monsanto had had none.

Of the 409 active pesticide ingredi-

ents approved for use in Britain at the end of last year, 298 were approved before 1981 and 169 before 1966, when testing methods were less stringent, particularly regarding measurement of carcinogenicity, Dr Clark said.

In March 1989, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food announced the introduction of their scheme to review pesticides. By December 11, 1989, the ministry had reviewed 11 active ingredients, an average of just 1.2 a month.

"Therefore, with 26 reviews in progress and 279 awaiting review - a total of 305 - the review will not be completed before 2011". The ministry

said it was expanding staff at its data evaluation unit at Harpenden, Hertfordshire, and hoped that would reduce the time taken to review and approve pesticides.

Since 1985 the number of scientists working there had been increased from 18 to 30 and a staff of 61 was planned.

The British Agrochemical Association said that even with that increase the Harpenden unit would still be seriously understaffed. Mr Chris Major, of ICI Agrochemicals, said that the slow approval system was delaying the introduction of new pesticides that would be safer than some of those now in use.

'Invisible' satellite dish may bring harmony

By Nick Nuttall
Technology Correspondent

An "environmentally friendly" satellite dish that could bring an end to the intercommunal friction that has split viewers and landscapers in some parts of the country, has been developed by British engineers.

The dish, made from a tough glass and plastic used for police riot shields, is transparent. It is being billed as the first "invisible dish", costing only slightly more than conventional fibreglass or metal dishes.

Villages such as New Earwack, near York, have banned dishes from walls and rooftops on the ground that they are "unsightly blights" that ruin the architecture and beauty of buildings.

In a survey of items and activities most likely to spark disputes between neighbours, dishes were ranked sixth most hated after dogs, horse extensions and fast growing trees. The new device should help to eliminate such objections,

according to Mr James McCormack, managing director of Zeta Services, of Almerley Edge, Cheshire, the telecommunications firm behind the see-through dish. "We have been looking for an environmentally friendly solution to

the problem and this seems to be it," he said. "They are so transparent, it is almost impossible to see them."

The new glass, called Anomax, has been made by Pilkington and is five times tougher than conventional glass.

The electricals, which instead of protruding from the front are housed in a special plastic behind the dish, have been specially developed by Marconi, the British defence and consumer electronics company.

Apart from its environmental benefits, Mr McCormack said the invention, which will be in the shops next month, had other important advantages. It holds its shape better, making it a more reliable reflector of satellite signals. With existing dishes, sunlight can be reflected into the feedhorn, or pick-up unit, leading to dishes "burning out" on sunny days. The new device is transparent to sunlight waves.

The Zeta dish can also incorporate heat elements, similar to those in a car windscreen, to keep it free of ice and snow. About five million British homes are expected to have satellite television by the end of 1993.

After a ratiocant December

by the Joseph Rowntree Memorial Trust, which administers New Earwack, to ban dishes from the village, several inventive ideas have been suggested to mask the receiver, including one from an artist which blends dishes into their background.

These were considered attractive, however, that several were stolen. Mr McCormack said that with an "invisible dish" theft was remote. "You just see them spruced up when the window cleaner comes round," he said.

The Official Solicitor has withdrawn representation from the 15 per cent of High Court adoption cases where the major issues have been decided by the court at previous wardship hearings not from all High Court adoption cases, as stated yesterday.



Ross McCall, of Zeta Services, shows off the transparent and, some say, "environmentally friendly" satellite dish.

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'Officials reiterate that to their knowledge no monies were received from Libya during or since the strike'

Scargill denies that Gadaffi funds were used to repay debts

By Peter Davenport

Amid growing calls from within his union for an explanation about alleged Libyan funding during the year-long miners' strike, Mr Arthur Scargill said yesterday he would make a full report to a special meeting of his national executive committee.

However, the president of the National Union of Mineworkers insisted that claims that undercover money from Colonel Gadaffi had been received and then used to pay the personal debts of himself and other full-time officials were "vicious lies".

Mr Scargill vigorously denied that any money from Libya or Libyan sources had been received by the beleaguered NUM as far as its two full-time national officials were aware.

Mr Scargill and the union issued a detailed rebuttal to allegations in the *Daily Mirror* newspaper yesterday that the union had received £163,000 from Colonel Gadaffi after a secret trip to Tripoli by Mr Roger Windsor, then chief executive of the NUM.

In the article, Mr Windsor, who now lives with his family in France, is reported as saying that the money had been received in 1984 through a middle man, Mr Altaf Abbasi, a shopkeeper, of Doncaster, South Yorkshire.

It claimed the money was then used to pay back to the union Mr Scargill's mortgage and the home loans of two of the NUM officials, Mr Windsor and Mr Peter Heathfield, the general secretary.

As the NUM issued a detailed response to the claims in a document headed *Scargill and the Libyan money - the lies*, the South Yorkshire police confirmed that they were continuing an investigation in which they wished to question Mr Windsor.

The police were called in by Mr Scargill last October after documents were reported to be missing from his office in Sheffield. The inquiry is also understood to involve claims that Mr Windsor failed to repay a loan to the union. Detectives have made several requests to Mr Windsor to submit to questioning in England but he has so far refused to return. Officers have no plans to see him in France.

The rebuttal document says: "There was no money received by the NUM either during or after the strike in 1984-5 which came from Libya or Libyan sources as far as the two full time national officials are concerned."

THE FACTS: During the course of the miners strike, all monies brought into the National Office either by organizations, individuals, members of the public or members of staff were recorded. All members of staff who received money from outside or inside the office were required to indicate the source of the donations or loans and these were recorded. If any money emanating from Libya was brought in or received from any organization or individuals including members of staff, the national officials were not aware of it at the time, nor have they been so informed since by Mr Windsor or anyone else.

"The national officials reiterate that to their knowledge no monies were received from Libya during or since the strike. It is true that the former chief executive officer, Roger Windsor, did obtain monies from Libyan sources,

then he lied about it at the time to the national officials. If it is not true, then he is lying about it now to the *Daily Mirror*."

The *Daily Mirror* report claims that "the home loans owed to the NUM were Scargill's £25,000 mortgage; Windsor's £29,500 interest-free bridging loan and £17,000 lent to Peter Heathfield for home improvements."

The rebuttal says: "No union money or money donated for union members or hardship purposes was used for the personal needs of national officials."

THE FACTS: Neither the national president nor the general secretary had a mortgage or loan so no question or repayment could have been perceived. By the rules and long-standing practice of the union, houses occupied by the national officials are owned by the national union. These include former officials like Lord Gormley and Lawrence Daly.

"Prior to the dispute the NUM were in the process of purchasing the properties occupied by the president and general secretary from, respectively, the president and the Derbyshire area of the NUM in accordance with the procedure of the union. The union had also, perfectly properly, spent some money on the properties, thereby enhancing their value to the union prior to completion of the purchases. The strike intervened delaying these transactions."

"There was a sequestration order subsequently made and concern was expressed that the sequestrators might try to make out a case for seizure of those properties and other houses owned by the union. A decision was therefore made to repay the NUM the sums it had spent."

"The money to do so came from a trust fund and in the president's case was repaid to that trust fund within four days from his own personal savings. The house occupied by the general secretary was eventually transferred to the union some four years after the dispute finished and remains the union's property. The payments and transactions referred to above were completed weeks before the date identified by the *Daily Mirror* as that on which Mr Windsor allegedly brought cash into the NUM office from Libyan sources."

"An accurate record was kept of all monies paid into the trust fund along with the source of such monies and also details of all expenditure from the trust fund. These accounts have been fully examined and confirmed as accurate by one of the world's leading independent firm of auditors. It is true that monies were paid perfectly properly to the Nottinghamshire area of the NUM in respect of area legal actions."

Mr Windsor, aged 45, says in the *Daily Mirror*: "This business has always leaned heavily on my conscience."

The document says: "Roger Windsor's role:

THE FACTS: Roger Windsor was an unelected member of staff in charge of the union's administration. At his request the NUM granted him a 12-month bridging loan to enable him to purchase his house in Sheffield to be near his work. That money was repaid from the trust fund in order to protect Mr Windsor's property from the sequestrators. Some two years after the dispute ended, Mr Windsor signed a legal agreement confirming that he had received a personal loan and gave an undertaking to repay this loan plus interest to the International Miners Organisation to whom the debt had been transferred. To date, Mr Windsor has not repaid this loan and he is the subject of legal proceedings which are currently underway in France by the IMO against him for the recovery of this debt.

"He is also, as is widely known, the subject of an investigation by British police who have confirmed that they still seek to interview him. That investigation was called as a result of information given to the police by the president of the NUM shortly after Mr Windsor resigned as chief executive officer when certain matters came to light."

The *Daily Mirror* gives details of the meeting that Mr Windsor says he and Scargill had with the Libyans in Paris. The rebuttal says: "Meetings with Libyan representatives:

THE FACTS: During the strike, national officials met representatives from over 50 countries around the world. The only contacts which the national officials had with any representatives claiming to be from Libya were a) when Mr Windsor introduced a man named Abbasi to the president of the union at the 1984 Labour Party conference and, b) at a meeting in the CGT Paris headquarters on October 8, 1984.

"These facts were reported to the union's NEC in November 1984. Roger Windsor genuinely volunteered to go to Libya. The only contact since the dispute occurred was when the president briefly met a Libyan representative at the 1985 Labour Party conference in Bournemouth and when the national secretary, while attending a meeting in France, met a Libyan representative. This was also reported to the NEC. Financial assistance was not requested or given during or as a consequence of these meetings."

"The *Daily Mirror* was requested to put any questions on these matters in writing. Had it done so, all of the facts to which we have replied would have been made available and this smear story would have been destroyed before publication. One can only conclude that the *Mirror's* primary purpose was to mount a malicious character assassination on the NUM's national officials. In view of the scurrilous attacks, the lies and distortions contained in the *Daily Mirror* article, the union's officials will make a report to a special national executive committee."

agency, Jana, reported Mr Windsor's visit to Colonel Gadaffi, saying that the Libyan leader "expressed sympathy with the striking miners who suffer from abuse and exploitation at the hands of the ruling class in Britain."

In an interview with Mr David Frost on TV-am in November 1984, Mr Scargill said he did not know Mr Abbasi nor the names of the Libyan representatives he had met in Paris.

"All I know is I met some people who said they were from Libya, and trade unionists. I don't know who Mr Salem Ibrahim is, unless he is a representative of the trade unionist movement."

The NUM's Libyan link was seen as a propaganda coup for Colonel Gadaffi. Libyan radio reported on the "confusion" that Mr Windsor's visit to Tripoli had provoked in "British circles".

Mr Scargill denies that the NUM received money from the Soviet Union and says that if financial help had emanated from Libya "the union's national officials were not aware of it."



Mr Scargill's former home near Burnley; and, below, Mr Heathfield's former house in Chesterfield, with garage extension.



Scargill attack on 'vicious' allegations

Continued from page 1
organization. Mr Scargill denied the allegations that any Libyan or other monies donated to striking miners were given to him or Mr Heathfield to pay personal debts.

Mr Scargill said neither he or Mr Heathfield had a mortgage or loan "so no question of repayment could have been perceived". Before the strike, the union was in the process of buying his house from him and Mr Heathfield's house from the president of the Derbyshire area of the union.

"The union had also, perfectly properly, spent some money on the properties, thereby enhancing their value to the union prior to completion of the purchases."

He said that the strike intervened, and because of a sequestration order concerned, was expressed that the sequestrators might try to make out a case for seizure of the houses and other properties owned by the union.

"A decision was therefore made to repay the NUM the sums it had spent."

"The money to do so came from a trust fund, and in the president's case was repaid to that trust fund within four days from his own personal savings. The house occupied by the general secretary was eventually transferred to the union some four years after the dispute finished and remains the union's property."

"The payments and transactions referred to above were completed weeks before the date identified by the *Daily Mirror* as that on which Mr Windsor allegedly brought cash into the NUM office from Libyan sources."

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Corner shop go-between who led NUM to Libya

Stories that Soviet and Libyan money reached the NUM during the miners' strike were reported extensively in 1984, particularly by *The Sunday Times*.

It was revealed then that Mr Arthur Scargill and Mr Roger Windsor had a six-hour meeting with Libyan representatives in October 1984 at the Paris headquarters of CGT, the French TUC.

They met Mr Salem Ibrahim, described by French intelligence sources as Colonel Gadaffi's paymaster.

Mr Scargill said at the time that his trip to Paris was to co-ordinate with French trades unionists a convey of lorries carrying food parcels to striking British miners.

After the Paris meeting, Mr Windsor went to Tripoli, where he met Colonel Gadaffi and a video of him kissing the Libyan leader was televised throughout the world.

The Paris and Tripoli visits were arranged by a Pakistani who ran a corner shop in Doncaster, South Yorkshire, Mr Altaf Abbasi.

Mr Abbasi flew to Libya via Frankfurt 11 days after the

Paris meeting and Mr Windsor made the same journey on October 22.

Mr Abbasi, who is married with five children, came to Britain over 20 years ago.

He ran a small grocery shop, Express Foods, in Copley Road, Doncaster, but was rarely there because, an assistant at the shop said: "He travels a lot."

On October 13, 1984 - five days after the Scargill-Windsor visit to Paris, Mr Abbasi attended a meeting of the Pakistani People's Party in Peterborough and told his fellow exiles that, after being in contact with the NUM for over a year, he had arranged support for the miners from Libya.

He boasted: "They won't have any financial problems any more. They won't forget me for the rest of their lives."

Mr Windsor joined the NUM in the early 1980s after having worked for an international trade union organization and lived in Stroud, Gloucestershire, where his wife Angela was secretary of the constituency Labour party.

The official Libyan news

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Health service poll

Reforms 'opposed by most Conservative supporters'

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

The Government was dealt a blow over its health service reforms yesterday when a Gallup poll showed that less than a third of its own supporters approved of the plans.

According to the poll, commissioned by the British Medical Association, seven out of 10 voters are opposed to the changes and 73 per cent of the electorate think the National Health Service is unsafe in Conservative hands.

However, the poll of 836 adults showed that support for the health service reforms is low even among Conservative voters. Only 32 per cent of people intending to vote Tory in the next general election backed the plans, compared to 37 per cent who disapproved and 31 per cent who were uncertain.

When asked if they agreed with the statement: "The NHS is safe in the hands of the Conservatives" less than half (48 per cent) of Tory voters agreed, 36 per cent disagreed and 16 per cent didn't know.

Dr John Marks, chairman of the association, claimed the results represented "a massive vote of no confidence in the proposals". The poll had shown that the vast majority of people opposed the plans in spite of the Government's recent propaganda campaign, he said.

The association will also

use the survey to support its call for a full pilot study in one region to test each of the key reforms, such as self-governing hospitals and practice budgets for general practitioners. Dr Marks will be pressing for this to be included in amendments to the National Health Service and Community Care Bill during its Commons report stage.

The poll results showed that 77 per cent of Conservative voters and 70 per cent of the

extend it throughout the country.

On the details of the Bill, the poll showed that over half those surveyed would disapprove if their local hospital became self-governing, although this would be supported by 52 per cent of Tory voters.

Nonetheless, 57 per cent of Tory voters and 68 per cent of those polled said that either the local community or staff in the hospital involved

Q: From what you have read or heard do you approve or disapprove of the Government's plans for changing the NHS?

	All	Tory voters
	Oct	Jan
Approve	17	13
Disapprove	70	71
Don't know	12	16

*Represents 836 surveyed. Gallup estimated from sample those who had not heard of NHS reforms.

entire sample thought that they should first be tested out in experimental pilot areas. Only 10 per cent of the full sample and 15 per cent of Tory voters backed national implementation.

"The BMA has maintained from the beginning that these potentially disruptive ideas should be tried out on one area. The whole hocus-pocus should be tried in one region to see if it actually works," Dr Marks said. "If it does work, it will be perfectly reasonable to

should decide on whether the hospital became self-governing. Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Secretary of State for Health, has made clear that ballots of either staff or local communities will not be decisive in applications.

Plans to allow general practitioners to hold budgets to cover practice costs and some hospital care were particularly unpopular.

The survey also highlighted the electorate's concern over the Government's handling of

the health service reforms so far. Forty seven per cent of Tory voters, and 73 per cent of all those questioned disapproved of the way the Government was trying to carry out the reforms.

The poll is the fourth commissioned by the British Medical Association in the past six months. It shows that disapproval of the reforms has remained fairly constant at about 70 per cent, even though the association stopped its publicity campaign at the end of summer.

However, approval of the reforms and agreement that the health service is safe in Conservative hands has dropped since the last poll in October, with more people now expressing uncertainty.

"The Government should stop turning its back on public opinion," Dr Marks said. Mr Robin Cook, opposition health spokesman, pointed out that between the publication of the National Health Service Bill and the debate in committee, support for the Government's plans had fallen further.

"Not even the poll tax was this unpopular when the Bill was before Parliament," Mr Cook said. "Tory backbenchers should ask themselves if this is really the time to be voting for a Bill that will give them even worse difficulties with their constituencies."

Winner blows own trumpet

DENZIL MONEBLANCE



James Arnold, aged 13, of Burton on Trent, celebrating winning the junior trumpet section of the UK qualifying round of the European Music for Youth Prize in London, yesterday. In the finals in London in July young trumpeters from Europe will compete for £3,250 in prizes.

Reshuffle on Liberal Democrats' front-bench

By Nigel Williams
Political Staff

In a reshuffle designed to take effect from the Easter recess, Mr Simon Hughes, the Liberal Democrat MP for Bermondsey, will take over responsibility for the party's response to the Government's Environmental Protection Bill.

He takes the post of environment spokesman from Mr Malcolm Bruce, who will now concentrate exclusively on Scottish matters. He will be supported in a newly-strengthened team by the existing Scottish spokesman, Ms Ray Michie.

Mr Hughes has strong links with the Green movement. Mr Bruce, however, will introduce the party's new policy on energy and environment at the Liberal Democrat conference in Cardiff next weekend.

In other front-bench changes announced by Mr Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, last night, Mr Matthew Taylor, who at 27 is the youngest MP, assumes Mr Hughes' previous responsibilities for education.

Mr Taylor's former role as trade and industry spokesman goes to Lord Ezra, the former chairman of the Coal Board, who will develop policy for the general election.

Mr Alan Beith, the party's Treasury spokesman, will now also cover trade and industry matters in the Commons, supported by Mr Menzies Campbell, a member of the Commons Trade and Industry Select Committee.

Chaos fear in schools if councils are capped

By Douglas Broom
Education Reporter

Any attempt by the Government to cap the poll tax levied by local education authorities would result in chaos in schools and could be illegal, Mr David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said yesterday.

He appealed to ministers to consider the consequences for education before acting against high-spending councils.

Education accounted for the lion's share of local authority expenditure and capped councils would be forced to cut school budgets to avoid overspending. This, in turn, would lead to staff redundancies because teachers' salaries accounted for up to 80 per cent of school budgets, he said.

Altering budgets after April 1 could be in breach of the 1988 Education Reform Act which requires councils to set school budgets before the start of the financial year.

Mr Hart, a former solicitor, added that in his view it was "inevitable" that schools affected by capping would go to law to defend their budgets.

● The Government's education reforms are being mirrored throughout the developed world, according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. A report by Professor Malcolm Skilleck, Vice-Chancellor of Deakin University, Australia, challenges teachers' union claims that the British Government is taking a dangerously radical course.

It found that governments from Japan to Canada were pursuing reforms which, like those in Britain, gave greater emphasis to vocational skills, literacy and numeracy, testing and parent power.

'Socialist grip' condemned

Call for privatized education system

By David Tytler, Education Editor

Large sections of British education, including schools, teacher training colleges, examination boards and universities, should be privatized to break the socialist grip on the system, which is facing an unprecedented crisis, according to a report published today by the right-wing Adam Smith Institute.

Mr Dennis O'Keefe, its author, who is senior lecturer in education at the Polytechnic of North London, says Britain's economic future is threatened by an educational establishment which is in the hands of socialists who are replacing intellectual standards in the search for equality. "The tendency to teach sub-Marxist claptrap under the aegis of anti-racism, anti-sexism, and multi-culturalism is widespread," Mr O'Keefe says.

A market-driven system would allow more choice: "The moaners and misanthropists will still be able to have children taught that white people hate blacks, that men oppress women, that all cultures are 'equal'. The difference will be that, like everything else, these moods will have to be sustained on the basis of personal finance."

He wants to see an Independent Council for Education, a special group of experts to advise the Secretary of State for Education, and an independent educational think-tank. He proposes that the GCSE should be scrapped and replaced by private and competing examining boards with parents encouraged to pay for books and examination fees.

"One of the greatest triumphs of socialist education is the GCSE, whose powers of intellectual destructiveness will, if it endures, be seen in

retrospect to equal the destruction of the grammar schools," he says.

A privatized system with schools and other education institutions geared to profit-making could benefit both pupils and teachers, Mr O'Keefe says. "We need private examinations, private schools, private institutions of educational evaluation and research. Socialism is wrong in theory, its results are as disastrous in education as elsewhere."

A radical shake-out of teachers would take place under a privatized system. "Some weak teachers will be dismissed. Many more will be galvanised into acceptable performance. Average standards will rise and a much more differentiated pay structure will emerge."

There would be a mixture of large companies, "the ICs of the curriculum", and small organizations selling education and training.

Mr O'Keefe accuses the educational establishment of being anti-patriotic. "Solidarity with blacks, solidarity with Bangladeshis - they are impeccable. Love and celebration of this country are definitely out."

He is particularly scathing of the school inspectors who are now criticizing some teachers for a drop in standards. "The way in which the inspectors now pose as the guardians of standards, having helped the teacher-educators in their partially successful attempt to infantilise the education system, is one of the most shameful scandals of modern British life."

The Wayward Elite (by Dennis O'Keefe, Adam Smith Institute, PO Box 316, London, SW1P 3BL, £9).

Florentine Hercules bronze 'found' in a Welsh garden

A sculpture found in a garden and sold last year for a record £6.82 million has led to the discovery of another unrecognized sculpture, also in a garden, and worth between £50,000 and £80,000.

The latest find, a Florentine bronze of Hercules supporting the world on his shoulders (below), turned up in a Welsh garden. It was bought for about £120 in a London antique market 20 years ago and will now be sold at Sotheby's on April 12.

It reflects the astonishing rise in value for what were once considered merely figures in the shrubbery of good country gardens. "A nation of gardeners is seeing its statuary in a new light," Sotheby's said.

A bronze of a dancing faun by Adrien de Vries, sold only three months ago, prompted the latest discovery. It was bought 30 years ago for less than £100 and was spotted by Miss Elizabeth Wilson, a Sotheby's sculpture expert.

The record price brought many inquiries from other hopeful owners to Sotheby's offshoot in Billingshurst,

SALEROOM

By John Shaw

West Sussex, which handles garden statuary. They included a photograph of the Hercules figure, 98cm high, sent in by a Welsh couple and forwarded to Miss Wilson. She saw the figure and attrib-



uted it to Ferdinando Tacca, a 17th century maker.

It derives from a smaller bronze statuette by Giambologna, one of a series illustrating The Labours of Hercules, in the Castello Sforzesco, Milan.

● Fine furniture brought wealthy buyers who paid £139,533,000 (£4,135,251) at Sotheby's in Monte Carlo at the weekend for 285 lots (12 per cent bought in). A private collector paid £14,440,000 (£464,435) for the top piece, a Louis XV desk.

● Phillips staged a successful £172,590 jewellery sale in Bath with only two lots unsold, part of a new regional group sales policy drawing on the resources of its 14 salerooms in the South-west.

● Hindlesham Hall, the 16th century hotel near Ipswich, Suffolk, has become a victim of the present high interest rates and is for sale for more than £7.5 million.

The 33-bedroom, four-star hotel, which has an 18-hole championship golf course, is set in 170 acres of countryside.

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Developer continues fight to build £1m house in green belt

By Christopher Warman
Property Correspondent

Mr Bill Woods wants to build a stately country house in the middle of his 395-acre farm in Bedfordshire as his home and as a contribution to English architectural heritage. He has, however, been refused permission because it is in the green belt.

He is to resubmit an amended application in the hope that it will be treated on its own merits, and has drawn up plans to landscape the whole of the farm.

Mr Woods, a property developer who has spent more than £30,000 preparing the scheme, estimates that the house alone will cost £1 million to build, and the final bill, if he is allowed to go ahead, will be nearer £2 million.

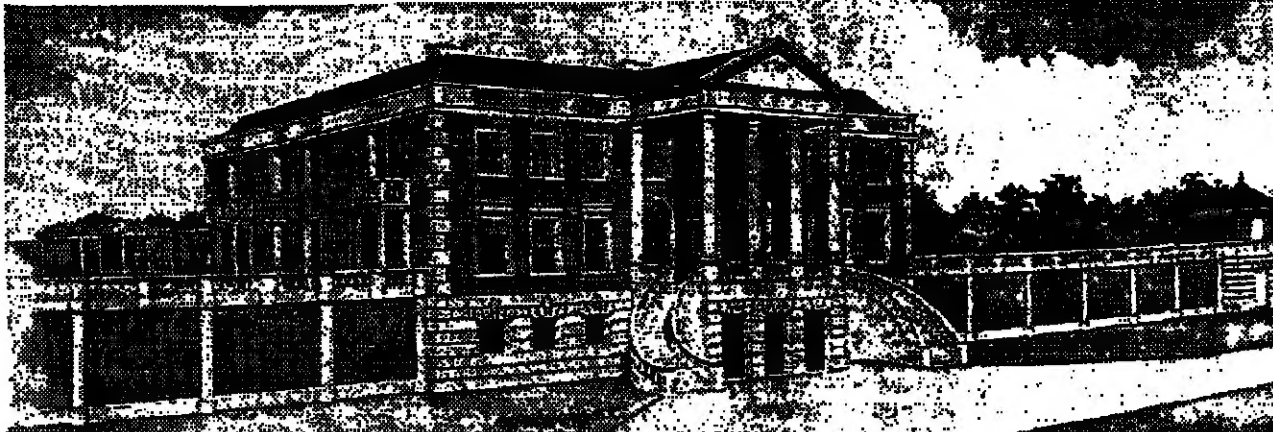
Mr Alp Arıkoğlu, his architect, who has designed a

classical country mansion in Georgian style, says it is a once-for-all opportunity, and criticizes the constraints of the green belt.

"The green belt is supposed to protect the landscape, and this project will enhance the landscape. It would be terrible if no more grand houses could be built because of green belt policy."

There is, ironically, permission for a house, granted on agricultural needs, in the Hertfordshire section of the farm, which straddles the border between the two counties. This, Mr Woods is prepared to forgo.

He and his architect decided on the particular site for the big house because it was in the middle of the farmland, between two gentle slopes and two of the largest woodlands, and scarcely visible from pub-



Architect's drawing of Mr Woods's "contribution to English heritage", with two wings, a stable block and formal gardens.

lic roads. The proposed house, with a great hall reached through a raised portico, has two wings, with a stable block and formal gardens in the fully landscaped grounds, which will involve the planting of

5,000 trees. "The proposed buildings will be of such quality that the already outstanding beauty of the land shall be further enhanced," the plans suggest.

That grand design has so far, however, been thwarted. The local parish council is against it, and the South Bedfordshire District Council's planning committee rejected the plan by five votes to three: the three had visited

the site. A report by the planning department to the committee said the house "loosely described as a dwelling house... what amounts to a three-storey Palladian country mansion". It said the site

selected, "although not immediately visible except from the south-east, would present a conspicuous location having, by the very nature of the house design, a dramatic impact on the landscape within the Green Belt area of outstanding natural beauty, and area of great landscape value".

In his submission to the council, Mr Arıkoğlu argued that the green belt would be strengthened by the proposals rather than weakened "as they bring the land under the close control of a caring landowner who would live on the spot".

Mr Woods said: "I already live in a nice house, built in the 1930s, thatched, mock Elizabethan. But I want to build a grand house to live in."

His attempt to build a country house receives endorsement from the agents

Strutt & Parker. In a general statement it asks: "Where are the modern 20th century country houses that would come the period houses of the 22nd century?"

Mr Jonathan Major, a partner, says it is probably more difficult to obtain permission for a new country house on a virgin site than to get permission for a business park.

"The environment in which we live would appear to be, at least in some planners' eyes, less important than the one in which we work."

He argues that there should be a controlled planning policy which would allow new houses to be built in the countryside, creating a new housing stock which would do some way to reduce the "gentrifying" of small houses and cottages, often enlarged by most unsuitable extensions.

Zeebrugge victims' families still seek damages for stress

By David Sapsted

Relatives of some of the passengers and crew killed in the Zeebrugge ferry disaster three years ago are still seeking compensation from P&O, the owners of the vessel, it was disclosed yesterday.

As the 36-month deadline for legal action passed at midnight last night, the company was facing writs issued by solicitors representing 40 relatives who are claiming psychiatric injury after the sinking of the Herald of Free Enterprise in which 193 died.

Lawyers are planning to press Lord MacKay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, to appoint a judge to hear a group action for what is expected to set a court precedent over compensation for post-traumatic stress disorder.

None of those seeking compensation were on board the ferry but they are suing P&O for the nervous illnesses they say they suffered because of media coverage of the tragedy. If they are successful, it could have far-reaching implications for the legal entitlements of the relatives of others involved in disasters. Similar action is planned by families of those killed at Hillsborough.

Mr Michael Napier, a member of the solicitors' group representing passengers' families since the tragedy on March 6, 1987, said: "I believe these people have well-substantiated cases both legally and medically for compensation for nervous shock. They have been forced to take legal action because they have failed to receive compensation from the hardship fund set up by P&O after the disaster."

Crew members' families have obtained 24 writs against P&O, three of which have been served on the company by Mr Christopher Erving, the union's solicitor, as the basis for a sample action.

He said: "Some of these people have suffered quite horrendous psychiatric damage: among the 24 are two husbands, also seamen, who have not been able to work since the disaster because their wives were stewardesses on the Herald. Both women, in fact, survived unhurt but the consequences on their husbands have been only too real."

The claims by the so-called "remote" relatives is based on the psychiatric injury they allege they suffered by seeing the tragedy unfold on television and in the newspapers, not knowing whether their loved ones were alive or dead.

"P&O seems to be totally unwilling to recognize that nervous shock can be caused by a disaster to a person not actually at the scene. We are not talking about grief, but real psychiatric illness," Mr Peter Spooner, a member of the executive committee of the Herald Families' Association, said.

"From my own personal experience, I know the anguish caused by the television pictures and newspaper accounts. Every time I saw that damned ship, I knew the body of my youngest son was aboard it somewhere. It is a pity that, three years after the disaster, P&O are still resisting the claims of people who suffered a definite illness."

All other claims from survivors or those bereaved have been settled. In February last year, 10 survivors successfully took their compensation claims for post-traumatic stress disorder to arbitration. However, the company has refused to give the relatives similar access to arbitration.

P&O declined to comment. The company, along with former executives and crew, will stand trial at the Central Criminal Court next September on charges of manslaughter.

Coastal village takes stock of flood devastation



Rained furniture and belongings piled up yesterday outside bungalows that until recently were under several feet of sea water as a result of the floods in Towyn, North Wales, last week.

Mopping up operations along a flood-hit north Wales coast were under way yesterday as thousands of evacuees waited for the all-clear to return to their homes. Only a few from outlying areas of the flood zone have so far been able to return home.

The sea wall that gave way last Monday, bringing disaster to the coastal village in Cwyrd, was sealed a week after fresh winds and high spring tides smashed open a 200-metre section. Emergency workers

have worked round the clock since Thursday dumping 60,000 tonnes of rock and cement into the hole.

A total of 2,900 properties in Towyn and its neighbouring communities of Kinnel Bay and Penryn, Dyfed, were flooded. Those evacuated were put up in the homes of relatives and friends and some in emergency centres;

Colwyn Borough Council has put up 850 people in hotels and holiday accommodation. Pupils of Towyn Junior School returned to their studies yesterday in the temporary setting of Bodelwyddan Castle.

Relief workers have been checking properties and police are maintaining an "exclusion zone" in the area.

Student feared oral test would be unfair

By Mark Soester

Mr Francis Foecke, a former Bristol University student accused of cheating, chose not to submit to a viva voce, an oral examination, of his ability because he felt he would be "screwed" by the university.

Mr Foecke said he would have been happy to have a viva before he was found guilty but not after when the chance of a fair hearing was, he believed, non-existent.

On the twelfth day of his appeal hearing into cheating allegations, Mr Foecke, aged 32, said he feared Professor Geoffrey Grimmett, his inquisitor, would adopt "an aggressive and bullying" tone which, Mr Foecke claimed, he had adopted when accusations of cheating were first made.

"I cannot conceive that once those accusations were put to me there could be a fair assessment," Mr Foecke said. "I would have been screwed."

Under cross-examination

by Mr Ian Karsten, counsel for the Board of Examiners, Mr Foecke said he felt that an appropriate time for a viva would have been between June 4, 1986, when he sat his final examination, and June 13, 1986, when suspicions of dishonest conduct were first put to him.

Mr Foecke said he felt that he still had to prove his innocence. However, Mr Karsten said the Board of Examiners accepted that the burden of proof was his responsibility.

He said, however, that he felt the board had proved Mr Foecke's guilt. "The chances of similarity between Mr Foecke's scripts and the outline solutions being as many as they are and involving as many unique features as they do, by innocent means, are astronomically small."

The hearing continues today.

'Impertinent' journalist criticized

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

A journalist's appeal to the House of Lords against a court order to hand over his notebook or face punishment for contempt ran into problems yesterday when a Law Lord questioned whether the House should hear a case brought by somebody who had "cocked a snook" at the law.

Lord Bridge of Harwich asked why the House should hear the appeal by Mr William Goodwin, a trainee reporter on *The Engineer* magazine, since he had had the "impertinence" to say he had not "the slightest intention" of complying with the law.

Mr Goodwin has consistently refused to obey orders requiring him to disclose his notes of a telephone conversation which, it is thought, could identify the person who leaked a company's confidential financial affairs to him.

The company cannot be named because of the commercially sensitive nature of the information involved. It said the leak came from stolen documents and wants to discover who was responsible.

When the appeal by Mr Goodwin and his employers, Morgan Gramplan, reached the Lords yesterday, Lord Bridge of Harwich asked



Lord Bridge: Attitude of litigant "extraordinary".

whether the Law Lords should agree to hear the case in view of the journalist's "extraordinary attitude that he was entitled to set the law at naught."

"He puts his duty to his profession above his duty to obey the law," Lord Bridge said, sitting with Lords Templeman, Griffiths, Oliver and Lowry. "Why should the House of Lords hear an appeal in these circumstances since he has not the slightest intention of complying?"

Mr Geoffrey Robertson QC, for Mr Goodwin, who is backed by the National Union of Journalists, said the reporter believed he was morally justified in keeping his sources confidential because he gave his word and because of his duty as a journalist.

He did not believe that the information he received was as a result of a criminal enterprise, personal malevo-

lence or the activities of one of the company's competitors.

Lord Bridge asked whether it would be unreasonable for a court to refuse to hear an appeal by someone who had cocked a snook at the courts. Mr Goodwin, in written evidence, had issued a "proclamation of defiance", he said.

It was exceptional for a litigant to have the "impertinence" to say that, whatever the courts decided, he would not comply with any order.

Mr John McDonnell for the company said it did not wish to "stifle" any appeal by Mr Goodwin. "The company's whole object is not to persecute Mr Goodwin but to enable them to identify the source of his information."

The Lords decided they would hear the appeal on the merits but leave the question whether it should have been heard until the end of the case. The case continues today.

Painting charges

Two Britons and three Turks were being held last night after a 17th century Dutch painting by Gabriel Metsu called "Lady Reading a Letter", stolen from Sir Alfred Beit's collection in Ireland in 1986, was found in Turkey.

Mr Neset Tas, head of Istanbul's financial police unit, said the painting was valued in 1986 at £16 million. He said Mr Allen Jackson, of Northern Ireland, Mr James Mullan, of Scotland, and three Turkish men would probably appear before an Istanbul court charged with possession of stolen goods.

Baby drowned

Sarah Thurlow, aged 10 months, of Great Clifton, Workington, drowned in her bath while her mother fetched a towel, a West Cumbria coroner was told yesterday. The inquest was adjourned.

House moving

A 500-year-old stately home Speke Hall may be lifted up and moved to a new location, to make way for expansion plans at Liverpool airport if the plan goes ahead, the National Trust-owned Tudor landmark will be the first building of its type to be moved.

Fake daffodils

Armathwaite Hall Hotel in the Lake District is to plant hundreds of plastic daffodils so that Easter guests will not be disappointed because mild weather means real daffodils are already in full bloom.

Rabies alert

A rabies alert was issued yesterday after a cat which could be infected with the disease escaped from a Dutch timber lorry in Gloucester.

Oldest cow

Bold, believed to be Britain's oldest cow, died yesterday aged 35. The mother of 29 calves was buried by Mr Will Evans, her owner, at his farm in Llanselhaearn, Gwynedd.

Saw death

A retired schoolmaster died when a chainsaw he was using to trim garden trees fell on him. Mr Michael Brisley, aged 62, of Southwell, Nottingham, was rushed by ambulance to hospital in Newark.

School allergy

Some 100 children at Wheatley Lane First School in Bradford, West Yorkshire, are having only half-day education until the cause of allergies suffered by people in an old part of the school recently treated for dry rot, has been identified.

Attacker jailed

Nigel Cross, aged 29, was jailed for six years at Leicester Crown Court yesterday after admitting two charges of abduction with intent to have unlawful sex with two students at Loughborough last October.

Miner chosen

Mr Steve Warren, aged 26, an electrician who lost his job when the Gevor tin mine near Land's End closed last month, was named yesterday to contest the St Ives, Cornwall seat for Labour at the next general election.

Murder charge

Mrs Carol Wray was yesterday accused at Halifax magistrates court of murdering her husband and daughter, aged 11 in a fire four years ago.

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Policeman 'made multiple share applications'

A police inspector who allegedly made unlawful multiple applications for shares in British Gas and Rolls-Royce later told detectives he did not think it was a crime, a court was told yesterday.

Clive Knox-Brown, an officer in the Greater Manchester police, used two of his sergeants, their families and his next-door neighbours as "puppets" in his scheme to obtain thousands of shares, Southwark Crown Court, south London, was told.

Mr Knox-Brown made six applications for shares in British Gas and 12 for shares in

Rolls-Royce. Mr David Elfer, QC, for the prosecution, said: "It is perfectly plain that this is a man who is very interested in shares in public companies. He is well versed in the stock market and in the share market of this country."

Mr Elfer alleged that Mr Knox-Brown knew perfectly well that he was only entitled to make one application for shares in each flotation. After his arrest, Mr Knox-Brown was said to have told detectives: "I know what I was doing was wrong and I bitterly regret it. I am not a deceitful person and I don't know why I

did it. I have not made any money out of this and I have not done any harm."

He allegedly said: "All I set out to do was to get a reasonable amount of shares so I could invest my money, long term, in a British company. I do not think that that would be a criminal offence."

Mr Knox-Brown, aged 52, of Oldham, Lancashire, pleaded not guilty to four sample charges of making illegal multiple share applications. It is alleged he applied for 12,000 shares in British Gas in December 1986 and 12,000 shares in Rolls-Royce in May 1987.

He had made applications for shares in British Gas using the address and Christian names of his neighbour, Mrs Smith, and her son. He changed their surname to Brown. Another application was made for shares in the name of Charles Keith Brown, who did not exist, it was alleged.

Other applications were made in the name of the inspector's wife and son. All were funded by Mr Knox-Brown and all the shares remained in his possession, the jury was told. When the flotation of Rolls-Royce came along, Mr Knox-Brown, made 12

applications for shares, the court was told, persuading Police Sergeant John Connell, who worked under him, to lend him his name, that of his wife and of his son aged nine.

Another officer, Sergeant David Williamson, also agreed to make applications in his own name and that of his wife and daughter. The Smiths were used to make applications for Rolls-Royce. Mr Elfer said Mr Knox-Brown still had the shares.

Mr Knox-Brown paid those who helped him £20 as a "thankyou", it was alleged. The case continues today.

BBC's lager-swilling Brownies earn rebuke

By Richard Evans
Media Editor

The BBC is severely censured today for portraying Britain's Brownies as lager-swilling shoplifters who go camping with boyfriends.

The damaging and inaccurate storyline in several episodes of *EastEnders* last year "came near to parody", was unfair to the Junior section of the Girl Guides movement and harmed its image, the Broadcasting Complaints Commission says in an adjudication published today.

The Girl Guides Association had

complained that the programmes were a travesty and bore no relation to real life. Brownies had been "badly wronged."

To make matters worse, the BBC screened some damaging episodes after Dr June Paterson-Brown, chief commissioner of the Girl Guides, had lodged a formal complaint about the false image being presented with Mr Will Wyatt, assistant managing director of BBC Television. Her request for more accuracy was rejected.

Although a senior Guide spent a long time with an *EastEnders* researcher and arranged for her to visit a

Brownie pack in preparation for the four-month storyline, the programme series portrayed the seven to 10-year-olds as taking their boy friends to camp, spending their time swilling lager and being involved in shoplifting.

In one episode an *EastEnders* character said of the fictional Walford Brownie pack: "Two were done for shoplifting before we even left Walford. Three got caught trying to sneak out of a Whippy Bar without paying."

The BBC told the complaints commission it had never intended to

disparage the Brownies. The storyline had endeavored to show some of the difficulties of running a Brownie pack in an inner city area. The shortcomings of the characters, Mo and Marge, were intended to be humorous.

Corporation chiefs admitted the storyline was not up to the required standards of accuracy and plausibility. Mrs Veronica Lepton Hird, of the Girl Guides Association, said yesterday: "We shall be suggesting to *EastEnders* that they might like to include Brownies in future programmes doing what Brownies really do."

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Military coup leader pleads for help as looting mobs run riot across Ciskei

Pretoria sends in troops to quell wave of 'anarchy'

From Gavin Bell, Johannesburg

South African police and troops have been sent to the "independent" tribal homeland of Ciskei to halt widespread looting and rioting, sparked by a coup at the weekend.

Mr R.F. "Pik" Botha, the Foreign Minister, said the security forces were sent in yesterday to restore order and to protect threatened South African interests. The decision had been taken after an appeal for assistance from Brigadier Oupa Gqozo, the former Ciskei military intelligence chief, who deposed President Lennox Sebe in the bloodless coup on Sunday morning.

As witnesses reported huge mobs rampaging throughout the territory, Mr Botha said one crowd was heading for government buildings in Bisho, the capital, with the intention of burning them down. Damage was estimated at millions of pounds, and there was a danger of the violence spilling into South Africa.

Official sources said the security contingents comprised police and army units which had deployed in Bisho and the nearby town of Dlamabazwa within an hour of Brigadier Gqozo's appeal being received.

Residents said the turmoil appeared to be the result of anarchy, rather than opposition to the new ruling military council. The mobs had begun looting properties owned by Mr Sebe and members of his government, but had moved on to ransack and burn factories, supermarkets, liquor stores and petrol stations.

Mr John Goldhill, an employee of a clothing company, said he saw more than 10,000 people overrunning an indus-

trial area on Sunday night. "We were lucky to get out in time. They were carrying out blankets, televisions, everything they could find. Every shop was being looted, it was a free-for-all."

He said he saw no Ciskei police or soldiers in the area.

Other witnesses said a shopping centre and a bus terminus in Mdantsane, an industrial suburb of Bisho, had been reduced to smouldering ruins.

Pretoria has not yet recognized the military council now running the impoverished territory, which was granted nominal independence in 1981. Mr Botha said the priority was to stop the

The Pan Africanist Congress yesterday snubbed attempts at a rapprochement with Mr Nelson Mandela and the ANC in the Zimbabwe capital, Harare. Mr Zephaniah Mthembu, the PAC president, denounced Mr Mandela's overtures of reconciliation with whites. At the University of Zimbabwe Mr Mandela's honorary doctor of law, awarded him in 1987.

Leading article, page 15.

violence, and recognition was a political matter which would be considered later.

As the South African forces moved in, Brigadier Gqozo appealed for calm at a mass rally in a sports stadium near the capital.

Shortly after seizing power, Brigadier Gqozo accused the deposed regime of violence, corruption and nepotism, and said his ultimate goal was the reintegration of the homeland into South Africa.

He was cheered by local leaders of the African National Congress and the South African Communist Party, who favour the dismantling of

the controversial "bantustan" system. Pretoria apparently warned Mr Sebe, aged 63, of an impending coup before he fled from Johannesburg airport on Friday on a trade mission to Hong Kong. He was called out of the aircraft, but returned to continue his journey.

It is uncertain whether he was confident that his army would resist the rebellion, or whether he had decided to flee. Mr Sebe, a former schoolmaster, was declared President for life by the Ciskei National Assembly in 1983.

Ciskei is unique among South Africa's black homelands in that it has no ethnic or linguistic basis. Separated from the Xhosa-speaking Transkei by a wedge of South African territory in the eastern Cape, it has the most congested and poverty-stricken resettlement camps in the country.

To pre-empt political opposition and resistance to heavy taxation, Mr Sebe set up a repressive security apparatus which enforced a state of emergency over a wide area. Trade unions were banned and their organizers were hounded from the territory.

The administrative capital at Bisho, said to be threatened by the mobs, was built in the early 1980s and comprises two presidential palaces, luxurious residences for ministers and bureaucrats, a huge office block for civil servants and a security police headquarters.

The strife is the latest in a history of internecine power struggles and conflicts with Transkei, which followed an inauspicious birth. At the "independence" celebrations, the soldier in charge of hoisting the new flag was drunk and the mast fell over.



Cashless take-away: Looters outside a store in Bisho, the capital of nominally independent Ciskei, after the military coup that overthrew President Sebe.

Troubles hit homelands

From Nicholas Beaton, Johannesburg

This weekend's bloodless coup in Ciskei is the latest challenge to the South African system of tribal homelands.

Since the release of Mr Nelson Mandela last month and the announcement by President de Klerk that the future of the homelands is negotiable, most of the 10 homelands have been hit by a rash of strikes and violent protests.

The campaign of civil disobedience, orchestrated by pro-ANC youth, student and trade union activists demanding the territories' reintegration into South Africa, has erupted in most of the black-ruled administrations, where 10 million of South Africa's 27 million black population live.

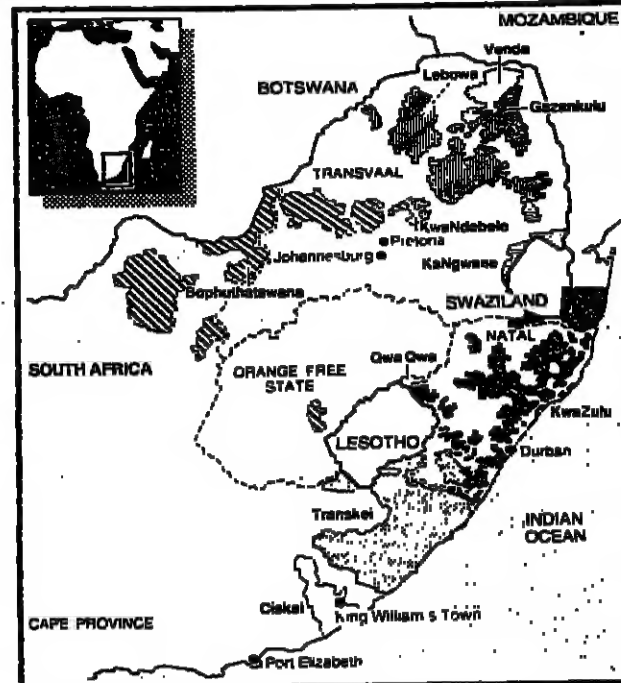
In Ciskei, the notoriously brutal regime of President Lennox Sebe was overthrown by a pro-ANC military junta on Sunday which freed hundreds of imprisoned ANC activists and announced plans for the homeland to be reincorporated into South Africa. The unrest

has also affected Bophuthatswana, where hundreds of people have been arrested after a series of strikes and protests.

Also affected are the eastern homeland of Gazankulu, where South African Defence Force troops have been drafted in to help to put down a widespread uprising that has left 16 people dead; Venda, where riot police have fired tear gas to break up a demonstration by hundreds of students; and neighbouring Lebowa, where police opened fire on stone-throwing youths.

Even the Zulu leader, Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi of KwaZulu, who commands widespread loyalty among the country's largest tribe and is widely expected to be a key figure in any future negotiations, is finding his support being eroded by the ANC.

One notable exception in the recent unrest is the Xhosa tribal homeland of Transkei, Mr Mandela's birthplace and traditionally an ANC stronghold, where Major-General Bantu Holomisa, the military leader, is actively encouraging reintegration into South Africa and plans to hold a referendum on the issue.



WORLD ROUNDUP

Shamir set to ride out Likud storm

Jerusalem — Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Prime Minister, yesterday met senior ministers from his deeply divided Likud Party amid growing indications that a majority of Likud MPs and senior officials flatly oppose American terms for peace talks with the Palestinian delegation in Cairo (Richard Owen writes). They believe this will lead to talks with the Palestine Liberation Organization and even the revision of Jerusalem.

But sources close to Mr Shamir said that, if the Israeli leader decides despite this revolt to recommend acceptance of the US plan under "tremendous US pressure" — at tomorrow's meeting of the Cabinet, he would be able to carry the Cabinet with him and then ride out the resulting storm in Likud.

Labour, Likud's coalition partner, was also riven by differences on Sunday as the deadline it imposed two weeks ago for the acceptance of the terms laid down by Mr James Baker, the US Secretary of State, expires today.

Unita calls for truce

Luanda (Reuters) — Rebel Angolan forces appealed for a ceasefire in their 5-year war with the Government yesterday as South Africa, Cuba and Angola met to review a regional peace accord which will usher in Namibia's independence on March 21. Dr Jonas Savimbi, the rebel leader, told Unita radio that he was ready to accept an immediate ceasefire organized by President Mobutu of Zaire if government troops would abandon military gains of the past two months. It was the first time that Unita rebels had admitted the Government had scored military victories recently. Government forces say that they have captured the key rebel-held town of Mavinga and twice bombed Unita headquarters at Jamba, deep in south-eastern Angola, during a military offensive begun in December.

Enrile court ruling

Manila — The Philippines Government of President Aquino faces a Supreme Court ruling today that would decide its test case of rebellion with murder against Mr Juan Ponce Enrile, the opposition leader (Yvonne Tenorio writes). Mr Enrile, who is being detained in a suburban police headquarters, has petitioned the Supreme Court for his release, saying that the charges are "non-existent" in the Penal Code. He was arrested under a non-bailable offence of "rebellion with murder" which is punishable by life imprisonment, and a lesser offence of harbouring the rebel leader. Mr Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, Mr Enrile's arraigner on the charge of rebellion with murder, scheduled for yesterday at the Quezon City regional trial court, was postponed pending the Supreme Court decision.

Lhasa clampdown

Peking — With the approach of Tibet's most sensitive anniversary, there are reports of tightened security around monasteries in Lhasa, the capital, as the authorities brace themselves for the possibility of renewed unrest (Catherine Sampson writes). Tanks have been stationed in front of the Jokhang monastery to intimidate would-be pro-independence protesters, sources said. Tibet's traditional prayer festival, Mon Lam, began last week, although in a severely limited fashion. In 1988, demonstrations broke out during Mon Lam and in the following year it was cancelled. But that led to the biggest demonstrations of all, a bloody crackdown by the army in which dozens died, and the imposition of martial law a year ago this Wednesday at midnight.

Ship trial delayed

Piraeus (AP) — A three-member tribunal yesterday postponed the trial of an Italian captain accused of ramming a cruise ship carrying hundreds of British schoolchildren. Captain Flavio Caminale, aged 47, of Genoa, was formally charged in November, 1988, with manslaughter through negligence, causing serious bodily injury, causing a shipwreck, and ignoring shipping regulations after four people died in the collision outside this port city. A court source said that Captain Caminale was reportedly ill and that a court could not come from Italy to attend the hearing and that a new trial date would be set. Two Greek crewmen, a British schoolteacher and a British girl, aged 14, died as a result of the accident.

Rafsanjani's brother in surprise Beirut visit

Tehran tries to speed up hostage deal

From Juan Carlos Guncio, Beirut

The brother of President Rafsanjani of Iran has been in Beirut discussing with senior Shia Muslims details of an alleged loan to secure the release of foreign hostages. Informal sources said no final agreement has yet been reached.

The unexpected visit by Mr Mahmoud Hashemi Rafsanjani on Sunday night came only hours after talks with Mr Farouk al-Shara, the Syrian Foreign Minister, in Damascus and prompted a new wave of speculation regarding the release of at least some of the 17 foreigners kidnapped by pro-Iranian radicals.

Officially, Mr Rafsanjani's trip to Beirut was described as technical. Iranian officials said that he came to Lebanon to discuss possible Iranian help in developing a new water project for the densely populated southern suburbs.

But informed sources said that Mr Rafsanjani also held private meetings with leading Muslim fundamentalists, including Sheikh Muhammad Husain Fadallah. He was also believed to have extended a formal invitation to Mr Shara to visit Tehran and meet President Rafsanjani and Iran's supreme leader, Hojatoleslam Ali Khamenei.

Sheikh Fadallah last week reinforced the belief that a solution for the hostage crisis

may be within reach. In an interview with *The Times*, he said that the Americans and Iranians were holding secret negotiations to try to obtain the release of eight American captives. "My instinct tells me that something was moving and the atmosphere (for the release) is positive," he said.

Mr Rafsanjani's contacts in Beirut and Mr Shara's impending trip to Tehran were the latest signals that Sheikh Fadallah's instincts could prove correct.

However, sources yesterday cautioned that a significant development could take weeks, given the complexities of the negotiations. Although the interests of the main protagonists — Iran, the United States, Syria and the Lebanese captors — appear to be gradually moving towards a common ground, there are still many crucial details waiting to be resolved.

Some political analysts in west Beirut believe that expectations have been placed too high and that progress — if any — could easily take months. It is believed, for example, that Iran's outspoken and enthusiastic disposition to help may be a manoeuvre to increase pressure on the Americans to yield to Tehran's demands.

In the rumour mill of Beirut, there is speculation

that behind Iran's apparent eagerness to help the hostages lies President Rafsanjani's burning desire to accelerate a solution on Iranian terms. Despite denials by the Americans, Tehran's allies in Lebanon insist that the Bush Administration is negotiating with Tehran and that the slow pace of these contacts in Kuwait.



President Rafsanjani: Seeks solution on Iranian terms.

dictates that Washington is hesitant about meeting certain conditions. According to Muslim militia sources, the Iranians have offered to help to solve the hostage crisis if the Americans persuade France to release Anis Naccache, a militant pro-Iranian Lebanese imprisoned for his attempt to assassinate

Mr Shapour Bakhtiar, a former Iranian Prime Minister, in 1980.

They are also demanding the unblocking of Iranian assets which were frozen by the Carter Administration in 1979 and American pressure to win the release of 15 pro-Iranian militants jailed in Kuwait.

President Rafsanjani already appears to have convinced his most radical rivals, who until recently were ardently opposed to any negotiations with the Americans over the hostage issue.

An indication of this change came on Sunday when Tehran's *Kayhan* newspaper, regarded as the mouthpiece of the hardliners led by the former Interior Minister, Mr Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, forecast that "the hostage file will be closed by mid-summer".

Christians enjoyed their most peaceful day in more than a month of war yesterday as mediators worked to turn battle fatigue into lasting peace (Reuters reports).

Traffic clogged the rubble-strewn streets of the Christian enclave while many of the remaining residents ventured out under cloudy skies, some for the first time in weeks.

Hundreds joined the exodus to safety which has already cut the original 900,000 population by about 120,000. More than 800 have been killed in the fighting since it erupted on January 31. Troops of General Michel Aoun and militiamen of the Lebanese Forces, threatened with excommunication on Friday unless they stopped fighting, silenced their guns on Sunday night.

Christian political sources said mediators shuttled across barricades separating the rivals for talks on implementing a peace plan largely ignored since it was agreed last month. The plan calls for an end to military operations and agreement on the future military role of the 10,000-strong Lebanese Forces. It was General Aoun's demand that the Forces disarm that sparked the war. Political sources said both sides had agreed to reopen roads, disengage forces and hand over security to the police. An Aoun aide said a comprehensive pact was within grasp.

Political sources said the new peace moves followed the apparent failure of General Aoun's drive against the Lebanese Forces, which control two-thirds of the enclave, its ports and main power station. A senior Christian leader said General Aoun had to realize he had lost militarily and the battles should stop while a final peace settlement was negotiated.

The co-ordinated campaign against belly-dancing has also been carried to the floor of Egypt's Parliament where Mr Maamoun al-Hodeibi, a member of the Islamic Alliance, an umbrella group which includes members of the banned Muslim Brotherhood, described the popular art form which is believed to have originated in Ancient Persia and has many imitators in the West, as "adulterous filth".

The clash occurred after police had shot dead another fundamentalist leader.

In response to the threats, nightclub owners have taken their own extensive security measures designed to prevent the recurrence of the recent incident when a Cairo belly-dance

Falkland visit's delicate diplomacy

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

The visit to the South Atlantic last week by Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Defence, reawakened one of the most sensitive of Whitehall debates — how to play the Falklands card with Argentina.

The Ministry of Defence believes that Britain must continue to maintain a strong military presence in the islands to meet the threat from Buenos Aires.

The Foreign Office, on the other hand, wants the language used by ministers and Falklands military personnel to be carefully tailored to avoid upsetting President Menem of Argentina, who has so far agreed to keep the question of sovereignty over the islands on the back burner.

It thinks it is in Britain's interests to show support for President Menem, because he offers the best chance of improved relations.

Agreement was reached last month to renew diplomatic ties and lift the 150-mile military protection zone on March 31.

Mr King's visit to the islands so soon after the agreement was coincidental. But it meant that anything he said which could be seen as provocative towards Argentina would be frowned on in the Foreign Office.

Mr King's dilemma became apparent in his press conference the day after arriving in the Falklands when Major-General Paul Stevenson, commander of the British Forces here, was asked whether there could be a cut in the British garrison strength now that diplomatic ties were renewed.

The Royal Marines general was unequivocal in his opposition to cuts, and gave his opinion that Argentina needed to become much more stable and the armed forces put on a more "level keel".

Mr King, quickly noting that this was a political matter, spoke more diplomatically, emphasizing that he did not envisage any "immediate" change in force levels.

The 2,000 islanders, however, maintain an in-built suspicion of the Foreign Office — and never resent about their ill feelings towards Argentina, are already preparing a less than friendly reception for the families of the Argentines killed in the Falklands conflict, who are to pay their respects at the war cemetery about five miles from Goose Green.

There could be demonstrations when they arrive.

Muslim militants target belly-dancers

From Christopher Walker, Cairo

Islamic militants in Egypt, traditionally one of the most tolerant countries in the Arab world, have launched a campaign against the Oriental art of belly-dancing and threatened violence against the estimated 22,000 professional dancers who continue to deny their claim that the exotic dance is immoral.

The threats of violence, which have prompted many of the nation's star performers, such as Miss Fifi Abdou and Miss Nagwa Fuad, to employ round-the-clock teams of personal bodyguards, have been accompanied by a controversial Islamic lawsuit now before the Cairo courts designed to force the Government to shut all belly-dancing venues for good.

The battle against belly-dancing is the latest tactic in the violent struggle by the Muslim fundamentalists to turn Egypt into an Iranian-style theocratic state where, despite a substantial Christian Coptic minority, strict adherence to Islamic Sharia law would be enforced.

The extremists, thought to total 150,000 in a population of 54 million, have already mounted an ugly campaign against more routine theatrical performances where women appear

on stage and decreed that the only acceptable instrument for public performance is the tambourine.

At a national conference in Cairo's Gezira Club last month, delegates called for a ban on the import of all foreign liquor and public flogging for drug offenders in accordance with Sharia. Symbolically, the club, once a

favoured centre for the capital's decadent lifestyle, has been dry for some years.

As well as increasing internal tensions between the main religious (which again broke into rioting in southern Egypt last Friday) and causing apprehension among the mass of ordinary Muslims, the accelerating campaign for Sharia is also posing a threat to tourism, one of Egypt's main foreign currency earners.

The dangers were underlined last week when initial reports suggested that Islamic arsonists had set fire to

the luxury Heliopolis Sheraton hotel after making repeated threats against its nightclub and policy of selling alcohol.

It was subsequently claimed officially that the blaze in which 17 people died had begun accidentally in a decorative tent used as a restaurant and a belly-dancing venue.

In a statement published in *The Egyptian Gazette*, the state English-language daily, Mr Mahmoud el-Khodari, jailed leader of one of the many fundamentalist splinter groups now opposing the moderate Government of President Mubarak, announced that his followers would flog any belly-dancer caught performing.

"We beat up belly-dancers we find to deter them from performing," declared Mr Khodari, aged 36, who was arrested last month for allegedly leading a group trying to set fire to a police car while its driver was still inside.

The clash occurred after police had shot dead another fundamentalist leader.

In response to the threats, nightclub owners have taken their own extensive security measures designed to prevent the recurrence of the recent incident when a Cairo belly-dance



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CHANGING FACE OF EUROPE

Old wounds reopen in Croatia as the Serbs demand arms

From Richard Bassett and Dena Trevisan, Belgrade

Relations between Serbs and Croats, crucial to the preservation of Yugoslavia's unity, deteriorated yesterday after a 50,000-strong demonstration by Serbian nationalists in Croatia on Sunday night.

The demonstrators gathered around Petrova Gora, a mountain in central Croatia, waving Serbian flags and carrying portraits of Mr Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian leader.

Shouting "Give us arms", the demonstrators appeared determined to provoke the Croatian authorities, but despite several hours of protests reopening historic wounds the police stood passively by.

There has been a Serbian community at Petrova Gora for centuries. During the Second World War it was a partisan stronghold, fighting off Croats who served the pro-Nazi Pavelic regime. The Serbs claim that more than 700,000 of their kinsmen died.

Unlike Serbia, which last November rejected pluralism

for its parliamentary elections, Croatia is committed to free elections in two months.

Many parties have sprung up in Croatia to contest these elections, but the 500,000 Serbs living in Croatia are unwilling to take part. They have founded their own Democratic Party, which is committed to looking towards Belgrade and Mr Milosevic rather than towards Zagreb and Croatia.

At Sunday night's demonstration, most of the shouting hailed Mr Milosevic and his policies of greater centralization.

These have led to the formation of a radical nationalist Croat party, led by Dr Franjo Tudman, a former general whom Marshal Tito dismissed from the Yugoslav Army in 1971.

Dr Tudman's Croat Democratic Community Party believes that Croatia's historic frontiers should be extended to include Bosnia. As the Serbian extreme nationalist

party led by the writer Mr Vuk Draskovic also lays claim to Bosnia, conflict appears inevitable.

Moderate parties are falling by the wayside. At a recent convention in Zagreb, Dr Tudman even said the collaborationist Pavelic state represented the aspirations of Croats.

This provoked allegations that Dr Tudman was a crypto-fascist. Dr Tudman published yesterday a statement distancing himself from the Pavelic regime.

Most of the Croats purged in 1971 by Tito, however, are lending their support to a coalition of moderate Croatian opposition parties.

Relations between Serbia and Croatia deteriorated in January when the Croats supported the Slovenes at the party congress in Belgrade.

Since then the communist party in Croatia has been portraying its future along the lines of a Western European social democratic party.

Royal visit for the Romanian survivors

ADRIAN BROOKS



Princess Helen, daughter of Romania's exiled King Michael, visiting survivors of the uprising in December at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital in Stanmore, Middlesex. Mr Cloran Anton, aged 35, centre, and Mr Pobescu Calin, aged 24, are receiving specialist treatment there for their injuries.

Letter from Sydney

Dropping out of white man's poll

The Australian general election campaign has failed to stir the people of Eveleigh Street. Nobody who lives down that bottle-strewn, bleak little road has ever voted or ever will.

Only Aborigines live there, marooned in the black inner-city district of Redfern in the shadow of Sydney's skyscrapers. It could be Philadelphia, Chicago or the Bronx.

There is not one political poster in any of the forlorn, derelict roads in this classic ghetto. No politician ventures this way, because there are no votes to be had. People say elections are a white man's way, alien to Aborigines.

Music from a band called Black Brothers pounds out from a ghetto-blast. People sit dreamily on the pavement outside their crumbling houses, smoking and drinking cheap whisky in the afternoon sun; a police car prowls by, and is hissed until it disappears around a corner.

"Pigs," says Mr John Bayles, an Aboriginal from Queensland. "We call them pigs." Dreadlocks flow across his shoulders and a thick black beard hides most of his face. He wears nothing but a pair of green shorts, "which is all I own".

He left Queensland years ago because it was "a police state". He says he refuses to work for wages because that would be bowing to the white man's system. "For a long time I was a good little black boy trying to act like a good little white boy. No more, brother, no more."

Mr Bayles once went to the United States on a six-month agricultural education tour financed by Quakers. He saw Indian tribes from California to Maine and found nothing but tragedy and ruin. It changed his life.

"There is no difference between them and us. We share the same white man's oppression, except theirs has been going on for longer. The Aboriginal can still be saved. That is why I have stopped trying to be white."

Eveleigh Street is a place "where whites fear to tread", according to a recent Sydney newspaper headline. Taxi drivers will not go there after dark. Police occasionally raid it in search of drugs and stolen goods. The ragged neighbourhood held a protest march last week against police tactics.

Round the corner on Cope Street, inside a half-derelict

house covered in graffiti, Radio Redfern sends out a stream of "black awareness" messages. It ignores the general election: in Redfern, the poll does not exist.

In a tiny soundproof room cluttered with tape recorders and microphones, an announcer urges people to support "Africa Night", an evening of music timed to coincide with the Sharpeville massacre anniversary.

Mr Bob McLeod ("that's my given English name"), an Aboriginal drugs and alcohol counsellor, sits around humming tunes. He says he is of the Yuin people near Wallaga Lake. He is famous in Redfern as a songwriter, particularly songs about Mother Earth. "We never see the rainbows in the tears in mother's eyes", is his latest.

He says Aborigines turn to drink and drugs because of displacement from the land and loss of self-respect. "It is said that our culture has been smashed. That is not true. Culture is spirit form and cannot be taken away. What we have lost is pride."

Statements of separation are everywhere in Redfern: there is the Aboriginal Dance Theatre, the Aboriginal Health Centre and the Aboriginal Medical Service. A boarded-up house used to accommodate the Aboriginal Theatre and Cultural Centre, but it was closed long ago because of some dispute.

The seething question of Aboriginal rights is not an election issue, and the Aborigines of Redfern do not care. They are angry and apathetic. Nobody even knows what the issues are. There is much scoffing when it is pointed out that mortgage interest rates will probably determine the outcome.

"There's got to be a song in that," Mr McLeod says, grabbing a pencil. "All these white fellas ever talk about is mortgages, house prices and pensions. What a system."

Radio Redfern, which has a range of about 20 miles and broadcasts on a minuscule budget for 40 hours a week, is still advertising Africa Night, which is being held on March 24 - election day. It is Redfern's unmistakable answer to the white man's election. The announcer says African food will be on sale, and the Black Brothers will be singing "Sufferin' in the Land".

Christopher Thomas

Nine are killed in Kashmir shoot-out

Srinagar (Reuters) - At least nine people were killed yesterday in Indian-ruled Kashmir as security forces fought to quell a Muslim separatist revolt, witnesses said. Officials confirmed a total of four dead, including a non-commissioned army officer shot by one of his own men in Baramulla, near the Pakistan border.

The officials said that the soldier, who had been detailed to enforce a curfew in the town, also wounded a colonel. They declined to say why the soldier opened fire.

Witnesses said Muslim militants shot dead four security force men when Indian authorities allowed a brief break in the curfew in the

state's summer capital, Srinagar, and officials said a passer-by died when he was caught in the crossfire.

Earlier police sources had said that four paramilitary policemen and two civilians died in the gun battle.

Indian security forces have sought to enforce a curfew on Srinagar for much of the past six weeks of revolt in Jammu and Kashmir, India's only Muslim majority state, where militants demand independence or secession to neighbouring Pakistan.

Witnesses said three demonstrators were shot dead in an anti-Indian protest in Bandipore, 35 miles north of Srinagar. Officials confirmed two deaths there.

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Reformers take first-round lead in Soviet elections



Mr Boris Yeltsin: Voted into the supreme soviet of Russia.

From Mary Dejevsky
Moscow

Preliminary results from the Soviet republics of Russia, Belorussia and Ukraine indicate a strong showing by reformist and nationalist candidates inside and outside the Communist Party.

But the majority of parliamentary and city council seats will have to be decided in a second round of elections in two weeks' time.

Among those who appear to have won seats outright in Sunday's polling to the Russian Federation's supreme soviet are the radical, Mr Boris Yeltsin, who was standing in his home city of Sverdlovsk in the Urals, three members of the central leadership — Mr Vitali Vorotnikov, a Politburo member; Mr Aleksandr Vlasov, the Prime Minister of the Russian Federation; and Mr Yuri Manayev, the Central Committee Secretary — and several leading journalists in Moscow and Leningrad.

The journalists include Mr Vladimir Starkov, editor of the contentious Moscow journal, *Argumenty i Fakty*, who survived a Politburo threat to dismiss him at the end of last year for printing

criticism of Mr Gorbachev. In an interview with *The Times* yesterday, Mr Starkov attributed his success partially to that incident when, he said, his readers gave him their unconditional support. *Argumenty i Fakty* has the biggest circulation of any Soviet journal, printing 33 million copies a week.

In Moscow, the reformists also did well in the first round, with Mr Sergei Stankevich, a Yeltsinite Moscow deputy to the federal Supreme Soviet, being elected outright to the city council. Another leading figure in the parliamentary Inter-Regional Group, the economist Mr Gavril Popov, goes into the second round with a convincing lead.

Both are well known to Soviet voters from their confident oratory in televised sessions of the Supreme Soviet.

To be elected in the first round, a candidate must obtain at least 50 per cent of the votes cast — a difficult feat when more than three candidates are standing.

Although a few candidates were unchallenged, there were on average seven candidates for each seat in the Russian Federation, with some constituencies fielding more than 20. Most candidates are

nominated at workplaces. The run-offs on March 18 will be contested only by the two highest scoring candidates.

In some cases the two will both be representing reformist programmes, but the majority are likely to see one radical reformist pitted against an experienced and mildly reform-minded public figure.

Sunday's elections, at least in the cities, assumed a more party political character than previous Soviet elections because many

● An electoral official remarked with glee that one candidate attracted no votes at all ●

candidates had organized themselves into policy blocs. However, as the blocs were not shown on the ballot paper — which gave only the candidate's current job and nominating organization — many people complained that they had no way of knowing the allegiance of a particular candidate.

Votes are counted by hand at

each polling station, and the results are recorded in an official document (protocol) which must be signed by all members of the polling station's electoral commission.

After the polling station has announced its results, the protocol, together with the ballot papers (wrapped in brown paper and tied up with string), are forwarded to the relevant central election commission. In Moscow, there are three: one for the districts of the capital, one for the Moscow City Council, and the third co-ordinating the results for the Russian Federation supreme soviet.

The results are checked before collation and a recount is ordered if any discrepancy is found. Some local polling stations had primitive calculators, but most of the arithmetic was done on scraps of paper.

In the eerie basement of central Moscow's Oktyabr cinema on Sunday night, the local count was completed three and a half hours after the polls closed without any of the barracking and razzmatazz associated with British elections. None of the candidates made an appearance, and the only people present were commission members. Members of the public are

permitted to watch — but not to interfere in — the count, but no one turned up to exercise their right.

The commission members were exhausted, having been on duty since 6am — an hour before the polls opened — and relieved to have encountered no greater complication than minor problems with mental arithmetic.

One of the officials remarked with evident glee that one candidate for the Moscow city council had attracted no votes at all. He was a Communist Party official engaged in housing administration — about the least popular combination of functions anyone could have in Moscow today.

● KIEV: Life was returning to normal in the Ukraine yesterday, after Sunday's elections, but there have been few pointers so far as to the fate of the ruling communist party or the success of the new breed of democrats and nationalists who are opposing it (Nick Worrall writes).

Result collators at the Ukraine national movement, Rukh, say the turnout had been high and were predicting a 100 per cent sweep of seats in western Ukraine, where the nationalist following is strongest. The Rukh leader, Mr Ivan Drach,

won his seat, as did several of the movement's other top officials.

In the capital, Kiev, it looked as if 21 of the 22 seats would go into a second round — only one had been decided in the first ballot. That seat, said the Rukh team, was won by a candidate backed by the Communist Party. The Ukraine's party boss, Mr Vladimir Ivashko, had won through to a second round where he will fight another Communist for his seat.

The election did not produce a straight fight between Rukh nationalists and the communist party. The party did not field "official" candidates because it does not yet recognize a multi-party system in the USSR, even though, at Mr Gorbachev's insistence, the party's monopoly of power looks likely to be abolished.

As for Rukh, it cannot yet officially call itself a party. It was not formally legalized as an organization until two weeks ago, which effectively prevented it from organizing a proper campaign.

With nearly 3,000 standing for the 450 seats in the Ukraine, supreme soviet voters in some districts had to choose from up to twenty or more candidates.

Interview, page 12

Defiant Kohl risks coalition backlash over Polish stand

From Ian Murray, Bonn

Given the strongest backing by the leaders of his Christian Democrats yesterday, the West German Chancellor, Herr Helmut Kohl, remained defiant about his two new preconditions for guaranteeing Poland's western border.

His attitude has infuriated leaders of the Free Democrats (FDP), junior partners in the government coalition, and the CDU risks being deserted by them when the opposition Social Democrats (SPD) force a debate on the issue in the Bundestag on Thursday.

Far from altering his stance in the face of enormous domestic and international criticism, Herr Kohl emerged from a two-hour meeting of the CDU praesidium to claim that he would be "criminally negligent" if he abandoned the "legitimate claims which were the legitimate desire of the German people".

Recognition of the present western Polish border had to "lie on the table" along with his demand that Poland must promise not to ask for any further war reparations and must sign a further treaty guaranteeing the cultural rights of the 500,000 to 700,000 ethnic Germans still living in western Poland.

As for reparations, the Chancellor said that, despite a Polish waiver in 1953, Warsaw had an ongoing claim for compensation for forced labour, which mentioned "a fantastic amount".

On recognition of the border, Herr Kohl repeated that the Bundestag and the freely elected Volkskammer could pass an identical motion on the border but this would need to be endorsed and ratified by a united German government and parliament.

Saying he could not understand what all the fuss was about, he went off for a 90-minute meeting with Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, his Foreign Minister, an FDP member and his chief critic on the issue. "I don't think we are really all that far apart," the Chancellor said.

Neither would make a statement after their meeting and the two will have to resume the discussion again today at the regular meeting between leaders of the three ruling coalition parties.

To judge by the angry comments yesterday of Count Otto Lambdordff, the FDP leader, no common position is likely.

Count Lambdordff said: "I just don't know how in heaven's name he got the idea to reopen this can of worms."

The Chancellor is also under attack from within his own party. Herr Heiner Geissler, whom he sacked as secretary general of the CDU last summer, has called for a clear statement of intent to recognise the border as a basic precondition for European peace and German unity. Herr Geissler, who is still deputy chairman of the CDU, speaks for its liberal wing and retains considerable grassroots support.

On the opposition side, Herr Kohl was damned for "a

3,000 refugees pour in daily

Bonn — The number of ethnic German refugees pouring into West Germany has been averaging almost 3,000 a day this year, according to figures released yesterday which showed that 186,162 had been registered up until Sunday evening (Ian Murray writes). About two-thirds have come from East Germany, with the remaining arriving from Poland, the Soviet Union and Romania. The influx is prompting left- and right-wing politicians to call for ways of dissuading the refugees.

policy of "adventurism" by Herr Horst Ehmke, the deputy SPD leader in the Bundestag. It was an "unbelievable event", he said, that for election reasons the Chancellor was running after the right radical Republican party.

But the Chancellor believes he represents far more Germans than those in the Republican party in seeking to defer a final renunciation of any rights to Silesia, Pomerania and East Prussia. After the war up to 7 million Germans were deported from lands that had been under — sometimes disputed — German rule for centuries. They form a strong and numerous lobby of "expellees" in West Germany. As far as paying for the Nazi

crimes of the last war is concerned, West Germany has handed over some DM11,000 million to Poland and last November launched an aid package worth another DM3,000 million.

But the Chancellor wants to reserve as much aid money as possible for East Germany.

● EAST BERLIN: Herr Kohl's attempt to tie the guarantee of the existing Polish western frontier to Warsaw's renunciation of war reparations was yesterday proving the biggest setback for the conservative campaign in East Germany.

With less than two weeks to polling day, the German Social Alliance, which has made up ground on the dominant Social Democrats in recent weeks, found its campaigning interrupted by voters' questions on the topic.

Herr Lothar de Maiziere of the East German Christian Democratic Party issued reassurances that his party considered the Polish border irrevocable. "We should do or say nothing that causes further concern to our neighbours, especially those who have suffered at German hands in the past," he said.

Herr Kohl's eastern sister party has so far refused to comment directly on his statement although sources speak of "disappointment and confusion" at this tactic.

Herr de Maiziere, together with Herr Wolfgang Schür, of Democratic Awakening, and Herr Hans Wilhelm Ebeling, of the German Social Union, which make up the conservative alliance, is unhappy with the tone and demands of the Chancellor on the Polish question.

They will hold talks this week on how the differences with Bonn should be tackled as the election nears. All three conservative parties in East Germany support the existing Polish border although the fact was omitted from the alliance's declaration asking for support from Bonn.

East Germany's relations with Poland, glossed over by the previous regimes in both countries with assurances of mutual solidarity, have been strained since the rise of Solidarity, which led to the closing of the border in 1981.

Lenin falls at last to American knowhow



Toppled from grace: The 12-ton statue of Lenin in Bucharest being removed by workers yesterday after three days of efforts using local equipment failed. The 30 ft-high bronze figure was hoisted off its pedestal by an American crane. Its removal was a sign of how the nation is removing traces of communism.

Genscher briefs EC on moves to unity

From Michael Binyon, Brussels

Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, arrived here yesterday afternoon to brief his European partners on the latest moves toward German reunification and on his tough talks earlier in the day with Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, on the German border with Poland.

His visit precedes the Chancellor's key meeting here with Nato allies on Thursday and comes as the European Community begins an intensive round of preparations for the imminent integration of East Germany into the EC.

The special team of Commissioners dealing with German affairs will meet on Thursday to look at the latest developments in the negotiations between East and West Germany on monetary union.

The five-man team will also continue the legal and financial analysis of East German accession and draw up a list of the issues that must be settled in negotiations with Bonn.

The first is the vexed procedure for incorporating East Germany in the EC. Article 237 of the Treaty of Rome

provides for new members, but did not foresee the territorial enlargement of existing members.

In many respects therefore, East Germany will be treated as a new applicant, negotiating special arrangements in at least five areas where Community law cannot immediately be applied: agriculture, the environment, social policy, competition and budgetary matters.

The common agricultural policy may be the first stumbling block for Bonn. As the influence of the Bavarian smallholders diminishes after reunification, the policy will become ever less attractive as the prospect looms of vast surpluses generated by a more efficient use of the big farms in the East.

The social charter is also losing its shine: Bonn does not want centralized enforcement by Brussels of social policy that would be extremely costly to implement in the East, and would destroy overnight the competitive benefits of a low-cost economy in the former East Germany.

The 1992 programme of

market liberalization and competition policy, until now commanding strong support in West Germany, could also go sour unless a generous transition phase can be negotiated for the East.

Similarly, tough environmental legislation, once a prime German demand, cannot be implemented immediately, and Bonn will ask for lengthy exemptions from EC pollution standards.

In return, however, a reunified Germany will expect

access to substantial EC regional funds to stimulate investment in the East. Bonn knows there will be a bitter fight if these are at the expense of Greece, Ireland and the Iberian peninsula.

But German officials say East Germany cannot be discriminated against, and if this means that Germany will no longer be so large a net contributor to the EC budget, then the other member states will have to pay more.

Bonn believes that all these issues are negotiable. It is keeping Brussels informed at every stage of its monetary negotiations with the East, inviting Herr Martin Bangemann, the Commissioner leading the EC German affairs team, to attend any Cabinet meetings on issues concerning Europe. Bonn has so far been encouraged by the Commission's co-operation, but disappointed by the cool response from member states.

The Germans argue that they are making great efforts to demonstrate their continuing commitment to European integration. In the current negotiations on inter-

German monetary union, they will not allow anything to hinder EC plans for economic and monetary union. The Bundesbank will defend the Deutschmark and stick by its rigid anti-inflationary policy.

On institutional reform of the Community, made more urgent by reunification, Bonn is willing to forgo any claim to a greater voice in EC decision-making. Despite a population that will be 20 million larger than any other member, it wants no extra Commission seats, no added votes in the weighted voting system and no extra seats in the European Parliament.

"This is part of our solidarity with Europe," one of Herr Kohl's advisers said. "We only want our European partners to show the same solidarity with us. And frankly, many of them have not been making it easy."

Bonn is hurt by suspicious that it is drifting East. For West Germany, membership of the EC is a bedrock policy that has been wholly beneficial. More than Nato, the Community has become almost an *ersatz* Vaterland.

German issue for Warsaw Pact

From Peter Green
Prague

Warsaw Pact foreign ministers will meet for a day in Prague on March 17 to discuss German reunification, Mr Jiri Dienstbier, the Czechoslovak Foreign Minister, announced in Prague yesterday.

"We do insist that each nation has the right to self-determination, and that even the Germans cannot be denied this. But German reunification is closely linked with the unification of Europe as a whole," Mr Dienstbier said after returning from visits to Nato and European Community officials in Brussels.

"In no way are we against the idea of a reunited Germany, we only hope the reunification of Germany becomes instrumental in speeding up the Helsinki process and the formation of new institutions of world and European security," Mr Dienstbier added.

Mr Lubos Dobrovsky, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, added that the Warsaw Pact ministers would discuss the consequences of German reunification, as well as "new multilateral security questions".

"We assume the standpoint of the other members will be close to ours," Mr Dobrovsky said.

The Soviet Union, Poland and East Germany had all "responded positively" to the call for the meeting.

As East Germans go to the polls on Sunday, March 18, in their first free parliamentary elections since the Warsaw Republic, the other Warsaw Pact nations have begun to worry at the increasing speed of reunification.

The Poles are especially concerned about West German reluctance to formally renounce all territorial claims to former German territory incorporated into Poland at the end of the Second World War. The Polish Government has demanded a seat at the "two plus four" talks on German reunification involving the four victorious Allied powers — Britain, the United States, France and the Soviet Union — and the two German states.

Mr Dienstbier reaffirmed the Czechoslovak position that Europe's borders must not be questioned anew.

The convening of a Warsaw Pact meeting reinforces the position of many of the Pact members that while the organization may be militarily moribund, its political usefulness can still be exploited.

Mr Dienstbier made clear that he sees the Pact's continuing relevance as its

members seek their place in a new European order. "I believe the Warsaw Pact, if it is really transformed into a political organization of members with equal rights, has a significant role to play in the future, as much as Nato, in disarmament negotiations."

"When two pacts meet, it is easier than trying to reach an agreement made by, say 35, countries on a bilateral basis."

Just what the Czechoslovaks and their Warsaw Pact partners hope will come out of the meeting is not quite clear.

A Nato diplomat in Prague said that the Warsaw Pact countries are expecting the pace of change to accelerate after the March 18 elections.

"They are interested in seeing it become more of a political animal, and in that context the March 17 meeting could be a way for states in the region to jointly present their points of view on unification."

The Warsaw Pact members are obviously hoping to influence the shape of a new Germany.

Mr Dienstbier also confirmed the April 9 summit meeting in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia, of the heads of state of Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia, with Austria, Yugoslavia and Italy attending as observers.

Hungarian row over Soviet troops

Pressure grows for early pull-out

From Ernest Beck, Budapest

The Hungarian Government, under growing pressure from opposition parties to push for a quick withdrawal of Soviet troops, yesterday agreed to include its demands in the Hungarian negotiating position at talks with the Soviet Union on a total pull-out of their forces.

After coming under attack for proposing a deadline of June 1991, instead of one year earlier as the opposition wants, Mr Miklos Nemeth, the Hungarian Prime Minister, said he would meet all the main parties tomorrow to brief them on the discussions and would incorporate their suggestions into the Hungarian proposals.

He said, however, that any important change in the Hungarian position at this late date could jeopardize a final agreement, which is expected

to be signed on March 10 when Mr Gyula Horn, the Foreign Minister, visits Moscow. The talks have been held up by disagreement over a final date for the withdrawal and by transport problems due to congestion at the border station at Csepel, which would also serve as a crossing point for the Soviet pull-out from Czechoslovakia.

Several of the 12 main opposition parties which attended a "national summit" yesterday with the Government questioned the legitimacy of the current administration to sign a deal with Moscow on the troop withdrawal. It is dominated by the Socialist Party and is expected to be swept out of office after multi-party elections in three weeks' time.

They have suggested that an agreement be signed in prin-

ciple calling for troops to be out within three months and weapons and other materials at a later date to be set by the new government, the first non-Communist one in Hungary in more than 40 years.

Withdrawal of the 50,000 Soviet soldiers, along with tanks, artillery and other military equipment has become an important campaign issue as the opposition presses the Socialists to take a tougher line with Moscow.

Meanwhile, Mr Nemeth has given more details about his revelation last week that the Interior Ministry uncovered a plot to stage a military coup last November by disgruntled local leaders of the former Hungarian communist party who wanted to stop the country's transition to democracy.

Mr Nemeth told the national summit that "some

people had played with the idea" but did not take it any further after probably realizing they had been discovered by the intelligence service.

Colonel Lajos Nagy, head of the National Security Service, added that the plan apparently called for the disruption of Hungary's energy supplies in order to prompt industrial unrest and, finally, a popular uprising against the new reformist leadership of the Socialist Party after its congress in October. Rumours that the plan called for the help of Romanian and Czechoslovak forces proved unfounded, Colonel Nagy said.

Mr Nemeth was severely criticized by the opposition and the press for not providing more information about who was behind it, or evidence that it had existed at all.

March 5 1990

PARLIAMENT

Labour invites Newton to 'do a Walker'

Pensioners' incomes rose by over 30 per cent between 1979 and 1987, Mr Tony Newton, Secretary of State, Social Security, said at question time.

Latest figures also showed that between 1974 and 1979 their total income rose by 3 per cent. The figures were dismissed by a Labour spokesman who urged Mr Newton to 'do a Walker' and leave office.

Mr Paul Flynn, an Opposition spokesman on social security, said that Labour was more impressed by the news that top people had increased their incomes by 28 per cent in a single year.

"The rich are becoming richer on a prodigious scale and the poor are becoming poorer very rapidly. Does he not find himself filled with self-disgust at his role? Is he not tempted to leave office and do a runner or, as we say in Wales, do a Walker?"

Mr Newton said that, between 1974 and 1979, pensioners' average total net incomes rose by 3 per cent in real terms. Newly acquired figures now showed that, between 1979 and 1987, they rose by over 30 per cent in real terms.

The answer to Mr Flynn's question was a firm "no". Pensioners' incomes had been

PENSIONS

rising more quickly than those of the population at large.

Mr David Harris (St Ives, C) said that the substantial record of the Government was far more important than the rhetoric of the Opposition. Labour had a miserable record.

Mr John Battle (Leeds West, Lab) said that, with the removal of transitional arrangements for housing benefit, those on income support were finding their increase in pensions this year had been wiped out.

Mr Newton did not think that that point stood up.

Mr Andrew Borden (Brighton, Kemptown, C) asked him to look carefully at the wartime generation of pensioners. Many were unable to save or own their homes. They had not shared fully in the increased standards of living.

Mr Newton: We have very much sought to direct extra help to those who do not have savings and occupational pension income.

Mr Marion Roe (Bromsbury, C) asked for the most recent figures for the change in pensioners' incomes from savings.

Mr Newton said that between 1979 and 1987 pensioners' average income from savings had

more than doubled in real terms.

Mrs Roe asked what proportion of people retiring received income from occupational pensions.

Mr Newton said that the proportion overall was just over half, but among more recently retired pensioners it was about three-quarters.

Mr David Wainick (Walsall North, Lab) said that instead of trying to defend the shabby way pensioners were penalized and lost rebates because of their savings, the minister should have the guts to do what the Secretary of State for Wales, Mr Peter Walker, had done.

Mr David Nicholson (Tarncliffe, C) said that many of those now retired who thought that they had made adequate provision saw their savings devastated with the Labour Government's inflation.

There was concern on the Conservative benches about savings, particularly in relation to community charge benefit. It appeared to be a tax on thrift and prudence if people lost the rebate when they had made an effort to save.

Mr Newton said that there were obvious differences about the level at which capital limits should be set. The Government had decided to increase them some two years ago in relation to housing benefit and rate rebates.

'Child benefit stays' pledge

Suggestions that the Government was to abolish child benefit were denied by Mr Tony Newton, Secretary of State for Social Security, during question time in the Commons.

Answering a question about the future of the benefit, Mr Newton said that the Government had no plans to do other than what it was committed to doing, which was to review child benefit year by year.

Mrs Dawn Primarolo (Bristol South, Lab) started the exchanges by asking what would be the cost of upgrading child benefit to bring it to the same level in real terms as in 1984.

Mr Newton said that the Government was not in a position to say what the cost would be.

Derbyshire, C) said that it would not be sensible to use that huge sum of money to help all families, but it should go to help the lowest paid. If the Government wished to help the poorest, modest changes in the tax rules on benefit would assist members of those families that wished to get back to work.

Mr Newton said that he would pass that suggestion on to the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

It was a fact that more than £1 billion of expenditure on child benefit went to 1.75 million families with incomes above £20,000 a year.

Mrs Clare Short, Opposition spokeswoman on social security, asked why the Government did

not come clean with mothers about the future of child benefit. The Government's failure to operate the system in line with the rate of inflation was depriving every child in Britain of £1.35 a week.

Had the Government not breached the promise in its election manifesto?

Mr Newton said that the answer to almost every part of her question was "no". The Government had maintained its commitment in the 1987 manifesto and had at the same time targeted substantial additional resources. As a result of what would happen next month, something like 1.5 million families would do better than had child benefit been updated.

The use of a government direct grant, by-passing the Arts Council, to meet the financial problems of the four "flagship" national arts companies, the Royal Opera House, Royal Shakespeare Company, Royal National Theatre and the English National Opera, was rejected by Mr Richard Luce, Minister for the Arts.

Mr Mark Fisher, Opposition spokesman on the arts, said during question time that all national companies were under threat of closure unless their deficits were tackled.

Mr Tony Banks (Newham North West, Lab) had asked the minister to discuss with the Arts Council steps to reduce the deficits of the national companies.

Mr Luce replied that it was for the Arts Council to decide the level at which the national companies are funded. In 1990-91, they would receive a grant increase of 11 per cent.

Mr Banks asked what other European country would treat its national companies in the way that the Government treated ours. He knew that they have

been independently examined and found to be most efficient in the way in which they spend the grants they get.

"Will he consider additional funds, and funding the national centres direct from the ministry, as opposed to funding through the Arts Council or will it all be stopped by the Queen of the Gulls over the road?"

Mr Luce said that next year there would be one of the biggest increases ever in cash terms - £400,000 extra. Mr Banks was not listening.

The judgement of other countries was not necessarily the right answer. The question was whether the national centres were of the highest quality.

"The answer is yes. We have every reason to be proud of them."

Mr Banks: No thanks to you.

Mr Tony Jessel (Twickenham, C) said that the national centres should try a little harder to live within their means.

Mr Luce agreed. The Arts Council would have a big increase in the coming year. They had £20 million extra in cash resources; 22 per cent in cash terms for

the next three years, together with extra funding. It must be seen as a same basis for funding.

Mr Fisher said that all the companies, taking account of last year's increases, would be looking for a rate of inflation over the past five years.

That was why they had the accumulated deficit of more than £7 million and the figures announced would not begin to tackle that. The deficits would not go away. If they were not tackled, it would not be just the RSC, but others, that would close.

"Ten years of Tory mismanagement will lead to the arts being bankrupt."

Mr Luce said that Mr Fisher was asking him to intervene directly, to undermine and ignore the principle of arms-length funding that had been in force since the Second World War under successive governments.

The Arts Council had had a £20 million increase and it was for the council, not the minister, to decide how to distribute that.

Earlier, Mr Charles Wardle (Bexhill

and Battle, C) had asked what assessment the minister had undertaken of the impact of charitable status on arts bodies.

Mr Luce said that arts bodies which were charitable derived considerable financial benefits from their charitable status. Under the newly established arrangements for the unified business rate, the minimum mandatory relief which local authorities must give to charities was to go up from 50 per cent to 80 per cent.

Local authorities continued to have discretion to give up to 100 per cent relief to charities.

Mr Wardle asked how many net gainers there would be as a result of the change.

Mr Luce said that it was not possible to be precise, but the English National Opera, the English National Ballet, the Royal National Theatre and the Royal Shakespeare Company, were all net gainers. The amount of corporate sponsorship had gone up and was still increasing.

Jobs from ship order

Up to 10,000 jobs would be sustained by the order for three Type-23 and submarine frigates over the next five years, the Earl of Arden, Under Secretary of State for the Armed Forces, said. The order, for Swan Hunter Shipbuilders, Tyne-side, was part of a phased programme.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Defence; Prime Minister. Debate, on the economy.
Lords (2.30): Human Fertilization and Embryology Bill.

Ministers accept coal defeat

A cross-party amendment compelling British Coal to consider environmental risks when it granted licences to private companies to operate open-cast mines was approved without a division during the report stage of the Coal Industry Bill in the House of Lords.

The amendment was accepted by the Government after its defeat by 16 votes on the issue during the committee stage of the Bill last week.

Lord Norrie (C), moving it, said that he was heartened by the Government's positive response.

The amendment reflected the

HOUSE OF LORDS

concern on all sides of the House for improved environmental duties to be written into the Bill.

The measure would leave the House a better and greater Bill than when it entered it.

Lord Gledhill of Edinburg, for the Opposition, said that a week was a long time in politics. Only last Monday ministers strenuously told peers that was no need for this kind of amendment.

Viscount Ullswater, for the

Government, said that there was no difference between the Government's aims and the aims of the supporters of the amendment. Operators of open-cast mines should have full regard to the environment, whether they were in the public or private sector. The difference was the way in which that aim could be achieved.

The amendment sent out a signal to the operators of the country's open-cast mines of the importance of high environmental standards. That signal was stronger because the amendment was supported by the Government.

Airport security cash plan is rejected

An Opposition attempt to reintroduce an airport security fund paid for by passengers was rejected by the Government when it was proposed during the report stage of the Aviation and Maritime Security Bill.

Mr Peter Smeaton, an Opposition spokesman on transport, moved a new clause to provide for a levy to provide a fund administered by the Government.

He said that a sad aspect of aviation security over the years was that all too often additional security had been introduced only after tragedies.

All research since the Lock-

erie disaster in 1988 showed that the public would be prepared to pay extra for security in the price of their tickets. The Government should re-establish the Aviation Security Fund.

"The present position of financing security... is unsatisfactory, causes widespread concern among the travelling public and leads us to believe on both sides of the House, that all too often gaps in airport security are left which could be adequately plugged if adequate funding was provided."

Labour had voted against the abolition of the fund in 1985. Its re-establishment would be a

comparatively painless way of funding the security measures they all wished to see.

Mr Peter Fry (Wellingborough, C) congratulated the Opposition on putting forward this new clause.

Those indulging in international terrorism were becoming more sophisticated and it would be idle not to accept that many people in the aviation industry were concerned at the cost of ensuring a more secure travelling scene.

He had been appalled to discover that, immediately after Lockerbie, an American airline had brought in the most up-to-

date equipment to check baggage at Gatwick but there had been no room for it. "It took six months for BAA to find room at Gatwick to put that machine into operation."

Many passengers would be happy to pay a reasonable charge to have the comfort in their minds that everything on safety was being done.

Mr Michael Partilla, Minister for Public Transport, said that security should be paid for by the airline, the airport and the passenger.

The clause was rejected by 203 votes to 135 - Government majority, 68.

Tory chairman shrugs off burdens as he joins the hustings

Candidate admits 'upset' of poll tax

By Nicholas Wood
Political Correspondent
Staffordshire

Voters are "upset" about the community charge, the Conservative candidate in the Mid-Staffordshire by-election conceded yesterday as he began the uphill struggle to hold on to a 14,650 majority in the face of the most buoyant Labour challenge in a decade.

Mr Charles Prior, the nephew of Lord Prior, the former Cabinet minister, acknowledged public disquiet over the issue as Mr Kenneth Baker, Conservative chairman, sought to inject some vim into his party's campaign.

"There are always issues that are going to upset people, and certainly the community



Getting to grips: Words of encouragement from Mr Baker to the Tory candidate, Mr Prior.

Defeat was out of the question as he sought to enlist the media's help in exposing the "cynicism and dishonesty" of Labour's vagueness about policy.

On a walkabout in the largely deserted village of Longdon, Mr Baker was also cheered by a party worker who told him that not everyone was cursing the poll tax. In her road, the occupants of 13 of the 15 bungalows were gainers.

However, with Labour heading for a 5,000 majority on March 22, according to the MORI poll, Mr Baker was careful not to raise the stakes too high. All by-elections were important, he told reporters,

suggesting that he has few illusions about his chances of halting Mr Neil Kinnock's advance through this predominantly rural constituency, which links the north and west Midlands and incorporates three towns - Lichfield, Rugby and Stone.

With his ruddy complexion and Barbour coat, Mr Prior looks the archetypal gentleman farmer. But he is a Berkshire-based managing director of a publishing and training company and, on yesterday's showing, will not lack stomach for the fight.

He also showed some finesse, dodging a question about the timing of Mr Peter Walker's announcement of his

impending departure by saying that no ministerial resignation came at the night time.

Dr John Cunningham, Labour's campaign coordinator, was also pondering the matter of personal resolve. Glibly recalling Mr Baker's Shakespearean address to the Conservative conference in October - "let he who hath no stomach for the fight now leave the field" - he suggested that Mr Baker was the architect not only of the poll tax but also the demise of Mr Walker, Sir Norman Fowler and Mr Nigel Lawson.

Dr Cunningham also displayed some false modesty, cautioning that despite the opinion polls, a Labour vic-

tory would be its best by-election result since 1935. He should have little to fear. Mrs Sylvia Heal, a crisy turned out 47-year-old social worker and magistrate from Surrey, dealt efficiently with some fairly tame bowling. On the doorstep, voters were attracted to Labour's policy of a property tax linked to ability to pay - otherwise known as the "roof tax" - because they found it fair and comprehensible, she maintained.

Dr Cunningham, meanwhile, marooned Mr Baker alongside Papua New Guinea as the only enthusiasts for a poll tax, while portraying Labour as being on the mainstream of Western thinking with its ideas on local taxation.

Mr Paddy Ashdown launched the Liberal Democrat campaign with a claim that the Tory vote was crumbling fast. However, he did not believe that disenchanted Conservatives would readily make the transition to supporting Labour because of its record in local government and its "ridiculous" roof tax. The SLD plan for a local income tax was a vote-winner, he maintained.

Mr Ashdown made much of the local connections of his candidate, Mr Tim Jones, a 38-year-old barrister, who has fought the seat twice before. Mr Jones had not been chosen in London and then parachuted in like his main opponents, Mr Ashdown said.

Mr Jones, speaking a few doors away from the headquarters of the Green Party, struck an environmental note, saying that he was a defender of the countryside and that none of his election materials contained hardwoods. Some of his posters had been recycled.

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A cry from the heart of Russia

THE TIMES

INTERVIEW

Boris Yeltsin might claim to be the authentic, sometimes ignored, Russian voice of the USSR. Barbara Amiel met him



Sharing the pain: Boris Yeltsin says he could not bear to witness the indifference of the USSR's political masters to the anguish of the people when he was in the Politburo

'Yes, my weakness is in my vulnerability — brutal conversation makes a very deep impression on me'

When we got off the plane in Amsterdam last Sunday night, Boris Yeltsin was in a good mood. "I am building bridges," he explained to me. "Contacts with various leaders in different countries. Democratization in our land must take place for the workers, people, anyone. If they are free, they will not allow totalitarianism to return." He was tired, but he went straight to the television studio to be interviewed.

Then he was informed that arrangements for him to see members of The Netherlands government had fallen through. Mr Yeltsin's face crumpled. The Foreign Affairs Minister, it was explained, had refused to see him on the grounds that it would offend the Soviet Embassy, who had not officially requested a meeting on Mr Yeltsin's behalf. Mr Yeltsin looked towards the corner of the television studio where a black-clad figure sat motionless and chain smoking. The Soviet Ambassador to The Netherlands had come, unexpectedly, to greet Mr Yeltsin. "He says," one television crew member whispered, "he has to do it because Yeltsin is a member of the Soviet Parliament. It's protocol." A Dutch journalist whispered that President Bush had greeted Mr Yeltsin — would Mrs Thatcher see him next week when he comes to London? The studio went silent as the interviewer began. The questions were in Dutch, of course, but before the translator could go to work, Mr Yeltsin heard the second word and smiled. "Gorbachev," he repeated to himself. "Gorbachev and Yeltsin."

I had expected Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin to be a lacklustre man. Why, I am not entirely certain. Perhaps it was talk of his drinking exploits and emotional outbursts. Perhaps it was my cynicism about his fight against privileges for the *nomenklatura*, later rather than earlier in his political journey. The script had an overblown favour.

I scented opportunism or, more accurately, a sense that Mr Yeltsin was more significant in the headlines than in his specific political gravity. A blowy Don Quixote, I thought.

We talked first on the flight from Vienna to Amsterdam, he eating deftly and carefully from his airline tray. "I never eat carbohydrates or sweet things," he said, proffering his complimentary chocolates to me. His discipline seemed un-Russian, but perhaps the choice was between waisting, sweets and alcohol. He has managed to keep the waisting, forgo the sweets and I watched him quaff two mini bottles of champagne and two of red wine with disarming frankness and amazing speed. They had absolutely no discernible effect, proving that it takes a lot of the stuff to effect a healthy 6ft 3in Russian.

The first surprise was the sharp edge and precision with which Mr Yeltsin frames his thoughts. He was also more controlled in his being than press reports led one to believe. He was reflective when we first met. He had come straight from the election in his republic — the Russian Socialist Federal Republic (RSFR), the largest in the USSR, taking up over three-quarters of its land and almost twice the size of either the United States or China. Though there is still only one real political party in the USSR, there are "groups" or "organizations" and Mr Yeltsin, who is a member of the Communist Party, is also a member of the Democratic Russia Bloc challenging

Gorbachev candidates in the RSFR elections. Mr Yeltsin's platform included a strong belief in private property and the reduction of centralized power of the state. I asked him why he still called himself a communist and wore his party badge proudly in his lapel.

"Today, when I went to my constituency," he said, "as usual there were about 20 television companies there and one of them asked, as they so often do, 'Are you a communist?' And I answered, 'I am a member of the party. And if you read my platform carefully, you will see I am for an independent Russian party'. I didn't say Communist Party. That is very important. Because I consider it not, perhaps, a historical mistake but a historical tragedy when at the Second International the communists separated themselves from the social democrats. I think in my heart I am really more of a social democrat. But you are the first person I say this to."

According to Mr Yeltsin, the last chance to save the Communist Party will come at the 28th party conference in the summer. "I will support Gorbachev, I want to support him if there is some genuine regeneration for the party. If the party will allow different factions or different platforms within itself, if it will give up the principle of democratic centralism, if it will change its structures, if it will change to a system devoid of apparats, if there will be a chance to elect delegates directly from various groups and associations on the ground avoiding the hierarchy, then the move to a multi-party system will be somewhat delayed. But if such radical measures are not taken then after the 28th party conference there will certainly be a split in the Communist Party and we will

'I think that in my heart I am really more of a social democrat. But you are the first person I say this to'

certainly have a multi-party system formed from those splits." Will he lead one of those new parties? I asked. A small smile. "That is something I will tell you on the day after the end of the 28th party conference."

One wonders: why on earth does he want to save the Communist Party? He shrugs. This isn't clear. Upheaval must be avoided. Russians will muddle through to a multi-party system. Interestingly, certain words never appear in Mr Yeltsin's speech. He never talks of liberty and freedom, in the sense that Sakharov might. He does not talk of individual liberty. It is true he is neither a philosopher nor an abstract theoretician. But he is, after all, a reform politician. He wants private property and free enterprise but shies away from the radicalism of leaving socialism behind.

This is not an uncommon muddle. It is found among the British and Americans as well as Gorbachev. Everyone wants the benefits of free enterprise but not the costs. There is nothing wrong with trying to figure out a way to bring the costs down, of course. But what strikes me is that when you have a fundamental unwillingness to pay the price, and you

somehow imagine that you can have the benefits without cost, then you are either a western politician, or, as it turns out, an eastern one.

In his personal being, on the other hand, Mr Yeltsin is prepared to pay a lot of costs. All the royalties from his autobiography *Against the Grain* (to be published next week) are going to fight AIDS in the USSR. His agent claims that the advances total a £1 million. As well, Mr Yeltsin has given up almost all his perks as a member of the Soviet parliament. Many of his privileges went when he resigned from the Politburo — only the second person after Trotsky to have done so. "I have put myself in the position of an ordinary person," he explains. My mind begins to slacken at the phrases, but then as he talks, the passion becomes evident.

"The leadership lives some sort of life of its own and it doesn't even feel the pain of the people and the cause of their suffering. This indifference was what I could not bear to hear when I was in the Politburo... And there is something else I have finished with now. Yesterday, I sent a letter to the Supreme Soviet saying that I was giving up the car that I have at my personal use. For our country this is an absolutely incredible action and I shall not be thanked for it. I shall be cursed from all sides. Because in our country there are several millions of such cars."

In western terms it sounds affected, even sanctimonious, but one cannot deny his dignity. There is a moral certainty about him. It is wrong to have so much when so many have nothing. His actions could be seen as opportunistic gestures, to counter the bejewelled and becaufured Gorbachev. But, all the same, in themselves the gestures may be still be right. Symbolism can mean a lot to a country in pain. The Royal Family had ration books in war.

A man is not all of a piece. Courage is often coterminous with cowardice and even moral conviction with expediency. For such reasons one shrinks from unequivocal conclusions. But there seems to be something in the smell of Mr Yeltsin, in his being, that speaks of the best of Russian qualities. His autobiography shows first a stubborn child and then a wilful youth, constantly going

against his own interests. He is the pupil who forgoes his diploma at graduation in order to speak out about the teacher who humiliates students. He is the youth who plays cards with ex-convicts on the roof of a moving train and the stake is his life. "I lost all my clothes and my grandfather's watch and then they tell me the next hand is to push me off the roof of the train."

At first, one can't help feeling that this is in the great Russian tradition of Gogol's *Dead Souls*. But as one speaks to Mr Yeltsin, a certain instinct says that while he may slightly embellish, there is a hard core of truth in his being. Again and again in his conversation he speaks of his emotional anguish over the alienation between himself and Mr Gorbachev. This is not simply an ideological power struggle but, for Mr Yeltsin, a personal tragedy. "My weakness is my vulnerability. Yes, I am a very impressionable man and any exchange, any crude, brutal conversation makes a very deep impression on me. I feel it deeply and I think I need a little more ferro-concrete. I cannot listen with indifference when the Chairman of the Supreme Soviet talks about pushing through his ideas. Demagogues. I can answer back and I never remain in debt. But at that particular moment I really do suffer."

It is to such a "crude and brutal conversation" with Mr Gorbachev that Mr Yeltsin attributes his much commented upon breakdown into tears on Soviet television some years ago. "I asked him about his wife, who provokes a great amount of disapproving bewilderment among the people. That provoked a very agitated reaction from him. I would say a reaction that was not really up to the situation or the subjects we were discussing. I had hoped that we would come to an understanding because a perception of our success abroad and in our country was based on a perception of convergence between the two of us. But it was in the course of that exchange, that conversation, that I saw it was not likely to happen. I think I would say that even some of our moral values and principles are very different."

All these qualities, his gambling with life, his stubbornness, his physical pain at the plight of the Russian people, the

aching heart at the sight of injustice that he exemplifies when he renounces his privileges, all of this seems to have coincided in some mysterious way, almost osmotic, with the yearnings and the discontent and the essential unbridled hopes of his people — the Russian people.

On this subject, Mr Yeltsin is firm. He speaks of the humiliation and anguish of Russians who find themselves in republics where they are outnumbered by other ethnic groups and where the language is not theirs and discriminatory

'The leadership lives some sort of life of its own and it doesn't feel the pain of the people and the cause of their suffering'

legislation is being passed. "There must be a law," he says, "guaranteeing Russians the right to come home to the Russian Federation. We are seeing a growing number of Russian refugees. Great is the number of Russians who would like to move from the republics to the federation and we must give them guarantees of security. We must have Russian regions where they could build houses for themselves."

"We are reproached with feeding off the other republics, but Russia is perfectly capable of feeding itself. It ought to have its own agreements with each of the other republics and these agreements should not be made through Gorbachev (the Soviet central communist planning authority) but through republic to republic."

"For many decades Russia has helped the other republics and now it is exhausted, not only in terms of natural resources but in terms of intellectual resources. Russians long for their own cultural autonomy and economic and intellectual regeneration. As one considers the wrongs that the republics may rightly feel, one must not think there is

no national passion in the Russian federation. It does exist, and if we do not take it into account there will be even more tragic and difficult consequences than in the Baltic region or Moldavia, Armenia or Azerbaijan."

Would he give the republics total independence if they wanted it? "Yes," Mr Yeltsin replied.

Nationalism, I suppose, can be irrational, like love, although it is not a bad thing when channelled constructively. But what about the anti-Semitism which seemed associated with it in Russia?

It was happening, Mr Yeltsin said, but not as badly as portrayed. "But this fear that is being whipped up among Jews is to some extent artificially provoked. Matters are not as simple as they seem. Whether it has happened because of *Pamyat* (an extreme Russian nationalist, anti-Semitic group) or other factors is questionable. I think it is absolutely essential for measures to be taken to douse the flames of what could become a raging fire."

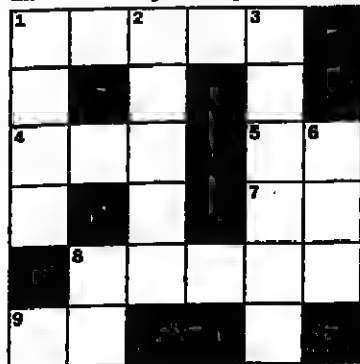
If one impression stayed with me of Mr Yeltsin, it was, curiously, not of his physical presence or his mobile face or his thoughts, but rather of a feeling of impending tragedy. He is optimistic. "The autobiography will cause much unpleasantness," he says, "and we can go very far with unpleasantness even to the point of physical...". His voice trailed off. Then: "But a man must live like a great bright flame and burn as brightly as he can. In the end he burns out. But this is better than a mean little flame."

I remembered, in Tolstoy's *War and Peace* one meets General Kutuzov, one of the two Russians who defeated Napoleon. Of course, Napoleon is the more brilliant general. Kutuzov seems to be the worse for wear and drink and with no great strategic muscle. But he is so much at one with the land and the people and their pain that it does not matter so long as he does not give up. If only he plays his life in accord with the dictates of the land and the mystery of the people's despair, he will win. It may be, that Boris Yeltsin has this kind of oneness that Tolstoy ascribes to Kutuzov. Mikhail Gorbachev would underestimate it at peril.

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Could your wordpower get you into Mensa?

To solve this crossword, use only the letters M, E, N, S and A. You may use any of these more than once.



- ACROSS
1. Intends (5)
 4. Crack military unit (1,1,1,1)
 5. Like (2)
 7. Short mother (2)
 8. Tea (5)
 9. Mess or Mts (2)
- DOWN
1. Religious ceremony (4)
 2. Several equine quadrupeds (5)
 3. Sailor (6)
 6. Name of mesple (13)
 8. Short poison (2)

If you can solve this puzzle, you could be eligible to join Mensa, the high IQ society. Cut out the coupon for further details and a copy of the self-administered test. To: Mensa, FREEPOST, Welwyn Garden City, Herts. (no stamp required)

NAME Surname

ADDRESS

POST CODE

Mensa

Take a quick dash around the hyphen

Hyphens are hell. I wish we could abolish the little brutes. So did Sir Winston Churchill. He wrote to Edward Marsh, the diligent and long-suffering civil servant who corrected the proofs of his literary works: "I am in revolt about your hyphens. One must regard the hyphen as a blemish to be avoided wherever possible."

Computer-setting often manages to break a word at the end of a line in an embarrassing place. Here are some recent specimens: theories, condom-inium, the-rapist, leg-end, mans-laughter, brains-canner, nose-p-rint, should-er, bamboo-zle, finger-ic. Such fractures can give a fellow a nasty shock over the marmalade, when his wits are still warming up for the day.

Unfortunately, we cannot do without the little brutes. They are signposts that are on

occasions essential, in order to show that two or more parts belong to the same word, or that two or more compound modifiers must be taken together rather than separately, in order to prevent misunderstanding: long-dead bodies, rather than long dead bodies, for an anatomist specializing in corpses more than 6ft-high; a light-blue dress for Cambridge blue, rather than one so flimsy that it will fit in a handbag for emergencies. Let us tip-toe into this well-worn, pit-fall-filled area.

The confusion arises between verbs with prepositions and/or adverbs, and nouns and adjectives derived from these verbs, also with prepositions and/or adverbs. The "hard" grammatical question is to decide which are prepositions, and which are adverbs or (in the jargon) adverbial particles. Let us hastily aban-

don hard grammar.

In general, there is no hyphen with a verb + preposition: run + through; run + into; see + through; for example, "He saw through the deception (or the flimsy neglige)". No hyphens are needed, thank goodness, in such stirring circumstances.

A hyphen would be an error. No hyphens either with verbs + adverbs: "He saw through the ordeal." The problem arises when a verb is turned into a noun or an adjective, which, contrary to the whinges of *laudatores temporis acti*,

NEW WORDS FOR OLD



has been going on in English since the illiterate Anglo-Saxons first waded ashore in Kent, shouting verbs and nouns and expletives at each other. They ran, (verb) through the tape (no hyphen). But a run-through (noun + adverbial participle meaning either a rehearsal, or a bloody event at a duel). They ran in the play in Brighton (no hyphen). But a run-in with the law.

Hyphens are needed with verbs that become nouns or adjectives, and then have modifying prepositions or

adjectives tied to them so closely that they are virtually one word. For example, verbs that have become nouns: a run-through, run-in, put-down, come-on, write-up. But once the word becomes "established", i.e. looks familiar, the hyphen tends to fade away as secretly and silently as the Cheshire Cat, for example breakdown, fallout. I wish that we could get rid of it in all of them. But I am not yet ready for a "come-on" or a "writeup". Here are some verbs that have been turned into adjectives with attached particles that need a hyphen to link them: see-through, a put-upon skivvy, a put-up job, a sit-down strike. As with the nouns, once the linked word becomes established, it tends to drop the hyphens. The "rule" is that verbs seldom need a hyphen to link them to their attendant prepositions

and particles, but that nouns and adjectives that look like verbs may need hyphens for purposes of identification.

Hyphens are a minefield all over the grammar wars. The battle was hard fought; but a hard-fought battle. Her secret was well kept; but it was a well-kept secret. Are you ready for "a subtly-thought-out strategy"?

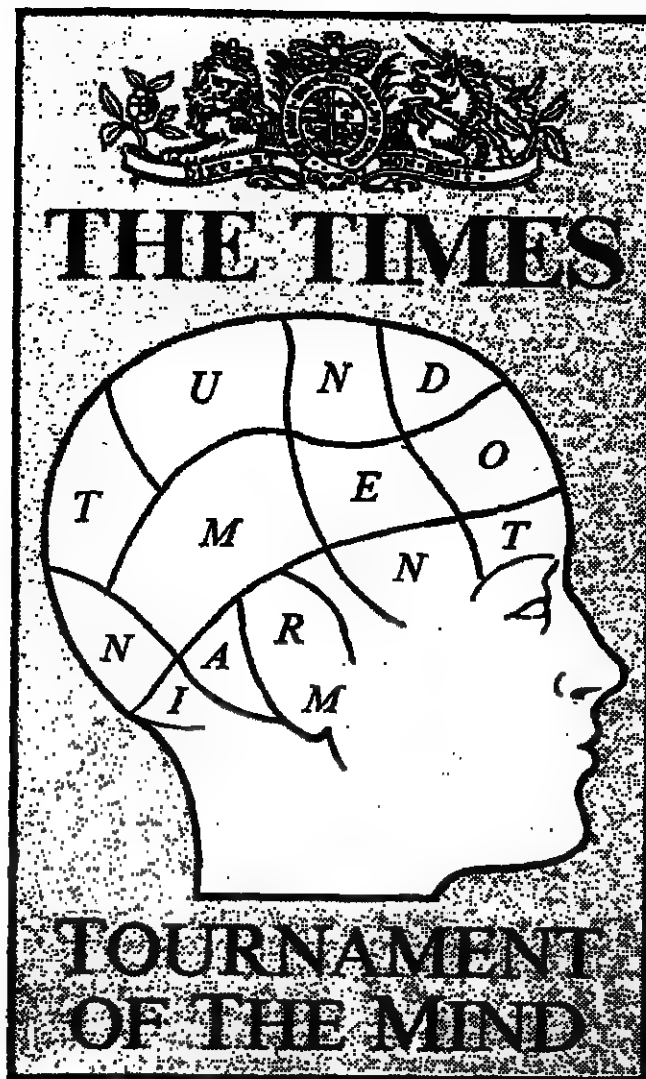
Little adverbs hyphen more easily than big ones. I won't put up with that; but a bravely put-up-with struggle. This is the dreaded verb + adverb + preposition problem, as in pass on to, sit across from, get through to, leave over from, make over to, go on with.

As Churchill might have scribbled, if he had not hated hyphens: "This is the sort of English that I find unputtable-up-with."

Philip Howard

SPECTRUM

Tournament of the Mind 1990



Our long-awaited annual trial of the intellect begins today with Round One. The rules and details of how to play will help you on that first step to £5,000

- The competition is open to all readers, both in the UK and the rest of the world.
- Each entry must be made on the original answer coupons taken from *The Times*.
- No telephone queries will be accepted.
- The only reference works used are the *Collins English Dictionary* and *The Encyclopaedia Britannica*. Answers obtained from other sources will not be accepted.
- Only postal entries will be accepted.
- The competition is open to members of Mensa.
- Employees, and their families, of Mensa, News International and their agencies will not be permitted to enter the competition.
- No correspondence will be entered into and the Editor's decision is final.

SCHOOL TEAMS

- Where more than one team from a school is entered, photocopies of the answer coupons and address vouchers will be permitted.
- Each school entry must nominate a team leader whose name must be shown on the entry form.
- School entries must be clearly shown. Their entries must be sent to Mensa, clearly marking the envelope "Schools' Tournament".
- Schools can enter teams comprising up to 10 pupils.

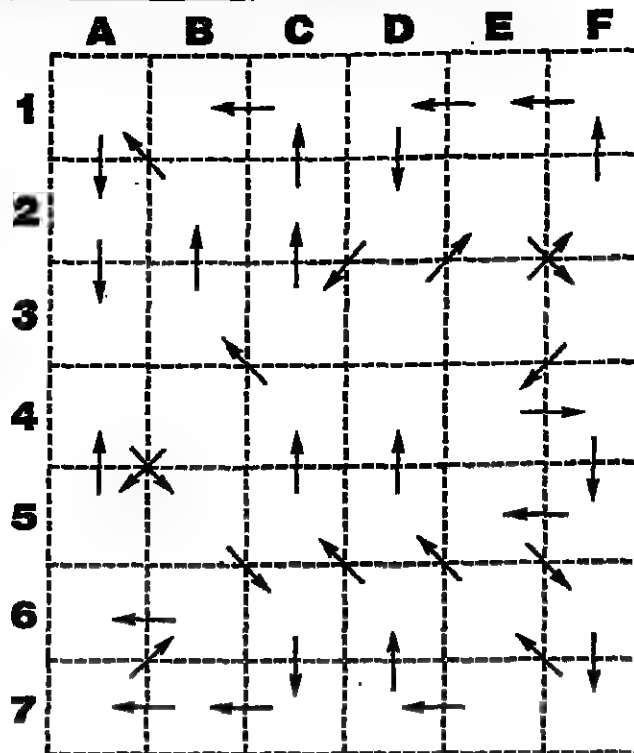
HOW TO ENTER

- There will be 100 questions in total in the first 20 rounds, giving a maximum possible final score of 1,000 points.
- Entrants answer the questions each day only on the published coupons, and must send their coupons only at the end of the 20 rounds.

- On the final day of the 20 rounds (Wednesday, March 28) an address coupon will be published. The completed answer coupons from the previous 20 rounds, together with the name and address of the entrant, should be sent to this address.
- Entries must be received by the last post on Tuesday, April 3.
- The full answers to the 20 rounds will be published in the week commencing Monday, April 9.
- Every entrant will receive a *Times* certificate marking their achievement.
- Those who score above a certain level of points will receive a personalized certificate in bronze, silver or gold.
- The top 100 scorers from the 20 rounds, or all who have scored the maximum 1,000 points, will enter the final five rounds, starting Tuesday, April 24.
- The names of the finalists from the first 20 rounds will be published in *The Times* on Friday April 20.
- The final date for receiving entries for the final five rounds is Friday, May 4.
- The top 10 scorers from the final five rounds, or all who achieve the maximum 250 points, will be invited to take part in a timed, play-off final in London on Monday, May 14.
- The final will be played under exam conditions, using only the *Collins English Dictionary* and four-function calculators. No other reference works will be permitted.
- The winner will receive a trophy and £5,000. The remaining finalists will receive £250 each.
- The winning school will receive a Hewlett Packard computer, a plaque and a certificate.

1. DIAGRAMS

In the diagram, there are several strings of arrows of differing length. The arrows represent the direction you should move along each string. The longest string passes through the most squares. Which square contains the start of the first arrow in the longest string?



2. VERBAL

Can you solve this riddle?

My first is in ACHE but not in PAIN,
My second is in ROAD but not in LANE,
My third is in PEN and also in NIB,
My fourth is in BONE but never in RIB,
My fifth is in DAY and also in YEAR,
My whole can be a fool or even a fur

What am I?

3. LOGIC

Replace the question marks with three mathematical symbols so that the calculation is correctly completed

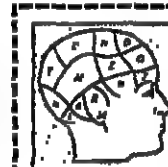
$$(117 \div 9) ? 4 ? 4 = 56$$

4. MATHS

A standard bath has two taps and a plug hole. One of the taps completely fills the bath in 15 minutes if the plug is in the hole, while the other takes 20 minutes to perform the same function. With a filled bath and the taps off, it takes 30 minutes to drain the bath. Assuming you have left both taps on and the plug out, how long will it take for the bath to be filled?

MISCELLANY

1. Which Egyptian king built the two temples of Abu Simbel?
2. What is Ringo Starr's real name?
3. What capital city's name means "Muddy Confluence"?
4. Which club, whose members included Sir Walter Raleigh, met at the Mermaid Tavern in London?
5. In what country would you find a desert death adder?



ROUND 1 - ANSWERS

Cut out your answers and keep this coupon until Round 20. Answers will be accepted only on coupons printed in *The Times*

PUZZLES

Answer 1 Answer 2

Answer 3 Answer 4

MISCELLANY

Answer 1 Answer 2

Answer 3 Answer 4

NAME

GEAR UP FOR THE THIRD ANNUAL JOUST WITH THOUSANDS OF MINDS FROM THE TIMES

If the past two years are any guide, thousands of combatants are set to arm themselves with dictionaries, encyclopaedias and calculators to joust and tussle with squares, symbols, letters and numbers in *The Times* Tournament of the Mind.

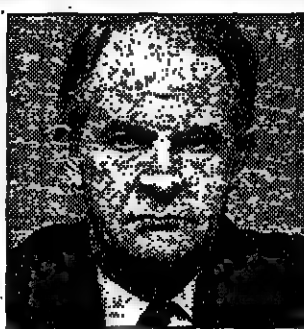
But only one will be the winner of the timed play-off final on May 14. Sir Terence Beckett, the former head of CBI and a Mensa member, will present the winner with £5,000 and the trophy based on Rodin's *The Thinker*. The winning school will receive a Hewlett Packard computer, a plaque and a certificate.

Queues will form outside

libraries, housework and homework will be put aside and puzzle aficionados will stay at home as this trial of intellect, which has become nothing short of an obsession for some, starts afresh today.

According to Mensa, the society for people with high IQs, there is no "right" way to succeed at the Tournament. It is a case of mind over matter; perseverance, ingenuity, presence of mind and a willingness to learn are the keys to success. Although some questions may appear difficult, a logical approach may reveal a simple solution.

Last year, some entrants complained that the answer in



Sir Terence to present prizes

the miscellany section of one of the sample questions was incorrect. But they had not realized that a diagonal in a grid could consist of two or

three squares and need not necessarily cross from one corner of the grid to the other.

Mr Andrew Johnston, last year's winner, is determined to defend his hard-won title this year but was willing to give a few tips to would-be contenders. "The key to the matter is defining precisely what the problem is. It is only when you have defined the problem that you can put in place an appropriate solution. Right from school, we are exhorted to make sure we read the question before we put in an answer."

Mr Harold Gale, executive director of Mensa, said: "Eventually, most people

could break the formulae we use. For example, the verbal questions can be solved by anyone willing to read the dictionary through, similarly with general knowledge and the encyclopaedia. A lot of it is just sheer leg-work. Just use your common sense."

One pupil from last year's winning school team suggested making the most of individual strengths. Catherine Christie, aged 15, a pupil at Madras College, St Andrews, Fife, said: "The boys seemed slightly better at the logic and maths questions. The girls were more patient at looking through books."

Ruth Gledhill

SIEMENS

Siemens Diagnostic Technology is vital... because HIV is no respecter of age.

The Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) which leads to AIDS is not selective about its victims. It can strike both sexes and all ages; even the youngest children. That's why an effective cure is one of the greatest challenges facing medical science.

Siemens is working in close partnership with the Medical Research Council, the Radiological Research Trust and the Scottish AIDS Research Appeal on a research project to investigate the effects on babies and parents who carry the virus, together with other people affected by HIV.

This national project is being undertaken in

Edinburgh where such problems are especially acute.

The new Siemens Magnetom body-scanner plays a key role in the project, with its non-invasive technology being particularly suitable for children.

It will be used to study the effects of the virus and to help to follow the results of treatment.

The scale and urgency of the problem demands an immediate fund-raising programme to enable further research to be carried out.

If you would like to contribute or find out how you can help, please contact Professor George du Boulay, CBE, at the Radiological Research Trust, 36 Portland Place, London W1N 3DG. Telephone 01-580 4085.



Innovation · Technology · Quality : Siemens

TIMES DIARY

ALAN HAMILTON

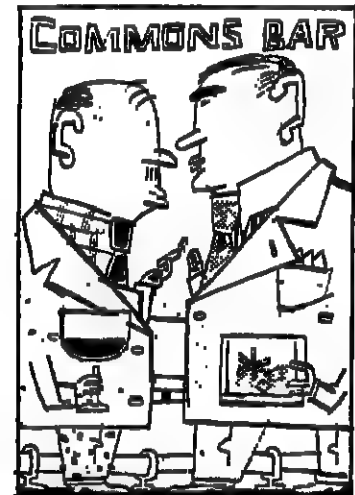
What will Peter Walker do with himself now that he has decided to quit the Cabinet and, eventually, his long-held Worcester seat? He has, of course, professed the Fowlerism that he wants to spend more time with his family. But I wonder if such an energetic 57-year-old will be able to give up the political drug altogether. Might he, perhaps, like Michael Heseltine's campaign manager when the Tory leadership battle finally begins? He has often joked to friends that such would be his ambition, and considering how intertwined the two men's careers have been, the suggestion is not outrageous. Heseltine was deputy to Walker, Opposition transport spokesman, when they fought Barbara Castle's Transport Bill in 1968. When Walker became transport secretary in the Heath government, Heseltine was his aerospace minister. And when Mrs Thatcher dropped Walker in 1978 from the shadow cabinet, Heseltine was the loudest voice of dissent. Walker, in turn, has lauded Heseltine as a man of "energy and tenacity on the one hand and sympathy and understanding on the other".

This prospect would be more stimulating for Walker than teaming up with his old business partner Jim Slater, who long ago gave up high finance to write children's books, including *The Boy Who Saved Earth*. No, it's not a biography of Heseltine.

My French wildlife sources report another sighting of the celebrated Dordogne kangaroo, at large for several months now after apparently escaping from a travelling fair. According to a local woman, who has previously reported spotting the emerald marsupial drinking from a stream, this time it was hopping across a road at dead of night. Mindful, no doubt, of the ridicule that greeted early sightings by Parisian holidaymakers — *ivre mort* (dead drunk) was the local verdict — she has requested anonymity. The gendarmes are none the less taking the matter seriously enough to issue warnings about the dangers of tangling with wandering Australians.

Once again, at that satisfactory rugby encounter in Cardiff on Saturday, the Scots supporters sang *Flower of Scotland* as their national anthem. The Scottish Rugby Union tells me that it has been adopted, for this season only, as an experimental alternative to *God Save the Queen*. Both, to my ear, are more suited to funerals than to stirring the troops for battle. Whatever is wrong with *Scotland the Brave*? Insufficiently gloomy for the Celtic temperament, I suppose.

BARRY FANTONI



A deluge of responses to my offer of Whisky 17-year-old single malt whisky for the six best attempts at writing John Major's Budget speech. No entry, sadly, from the man himself, probably because my strictures of a maximum 100 words would defeat any chancellor. A bottle of Scotch gold from the Campsie Hills to Watson Weeks of Truro for.

I propose a swingeing tax on Budget speeches exceeding 20 minutes, and on party political broadcasts displaying insufferable complacency. Banks employing ex-chancellors at inflated salaries will be obliged to cancel all charges to customers, thus reducing profits to figures that the average layman can understand. Any Cabinet minister or business tycoon who uses the term "politics of envy" will forfeit two-thirds of his salary to a charitable fund providing prizes for literary competitions. The duty on wine will be greatly reduced, the revenue shortfall being made up by the Government department responsible for advertising water.

And another to Michael Abbott of Ramsgate for: "I turn to Inheritance Tax. The Government has now realized the terrible waste of resources, both ecological and in the costs of pensions and services, in living too long. I propose to initiate measures which will go some way towards reversing this unfortunate trend. The basis of Inheritance Tax will be altered so that it starts at a zero rate at retirement age and then increases annually at a rate of two per cent. This should provide great encouragement (Government cheers)."

More winners later this week.

Last Thursday, I made my professional acting debut. I made it at the Corteslee Theatre, because at my age the trick is to start big. There is no point mucking about in local rep, years of hobnobbing in and out muttering "There is a young person at the door, madame," and waiting for the chance to play Ostrich.

I had not been on a stage for 42 years. 1948 was when I made my amateur debut, in the Mr Hoskyns adaptation of *Hiawatha*. The audition were pretty tough: your mother had to know where to lay her hands on a chicken. No easy task in the Attlee years. What mine could mainly lay her hands on was mince or shrimps, neither of which made much of a war bonnet. Anyway, she managed to get a little pullet and I managed to get a little rooster. I had to come on and scan the horizon for the sort of things redskins scan the ho-

izon for, and it was lucky there was only one performance, because stage fright drove the thumb of my scanning hand into my eye and the next day the eye came up like a plum, and had there been a second performance, I should not have been able to go on. There would have had to have been a management announcement that, due to indisposition, the part of Third Brave would be played by David Collingwood, wearing Mrs Coren's pullet.

Given this early trauma it is hardly surprising that I allowed 42 years to go by before taking another crack at the boards, and that when I did go back, it was entirely unintentional. I got to

star in *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* simply by buying a ticket to see it. The Corteslee is not so much a theatre in the round as a floor in the round. The stage's perimeter is the first row of seats. Since I had booked by telephone, I did not know that I should be sitting not merely in the first row, but in pole position. I was next to the piano. I was so next to the piano that I could have made a fair fist of Chopsticks without moving from my seat.

The piano is a major component of August Wilson's fine play, which concerns itself with the 1927 recording session at which the great blues singer and her band

studio to enwrap the title masterpiece. You will now understand why the piano is central to the action; you will further understand why, when the house lights dim, the piano is bathed in a big



ALAN
COREN

fat spotlight of its own; and if you are truly understanding, you will feel empathetic goosebumps bubbling for the one member of the audience forced to share that spotlight with the cast.

Even before the play started, stage fright had desiccated my throat and driven its moisture out through either armpit. How my thumb failed to end up in my eye, God alone knows. This was because I often have a problem at the theatre, and as the spotlight warmed my head, the vision came upon me — since I had paid by an identifying credit card — of, at the end, a management announcement to the effect that the part of the Shoring Philistine

had been played by Alan Coren. I thank my lucky stars that the play was so riveting as to save me from at least this embarrassment. I curse, however, my unlucky ones for the text that drove those rivets home: for *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* derives its conflict from the confrontation between black aspiration and white exploitation. Seven black actors embody the former, three white actors embody the latter. Leaving a fourth white actor (unpaid) trapped between them.

How to react, with 700 spectating eyes on me? A black actor stares into my own from three feet away and delivers a joke simultaneously funny and savage: how much do I laugh, how much do I quail, how far should I manifest my comprehension of the resonances before I blench the theme of white insensitivity upon which the play depends? When the jazz belts out, is it over the top to tap the spotlight feet in time? When the ravishing Jacqueline de Peza shimmys past, bent on seduction, does the fourth white man look at her with lust or dispassion?

Nearly three hours of this, and I acted my heart out; and I thought I had done all right, until the notices came in. You recall last Thursday? It was the day England beat the West Indies, and joy had betrayed me into childishness. But how could I have known, when I was dressing, what the evening would require of me? "In my opinion," said my wife's review, "the MCC tie was a mistake."

Norman Tebbit on the high cost of rejecting the Tories

Labour's crippling IOUs

According to the pink pundits (and some who ought to know better), Mrs Thatcher and Britain under her leadership are isolated, alone and out of step. Last Friday I heard it said by Mr Hattersley, who has an unrivalled reputation for believing what he says as opposed to saying what he believes. There has been, he said, a great sea change in the British national mood away from Thatcherism and towards something rather warm and cuddly, which, perhaps for fear of ridicule, he did not name as either Kinnockism or socialism.

If Mr Hattersley were right, Britain would indeed be out of step, facing down the socialist path while almost every country in the world that has trod that ruinous road has turned back towards market economics, capitalism and neo-Thatcherism. Labour's so-called intellectuals cannot understand that it is not the clapped-out socialist East Germany that is about to annex capitalist West Germany, to save it from poverty and repression, but the other way around. The crisis of capitalism is about funding the economic and environmental reconstruction of economies ravaged by socialism.

But what if former Alliance voters have found a more or less permanent home with Labour and Thatcherism proves unable to command more than 40-50 per cent of the votes in a two-party election? Suppose Mr Hattersley is half right and the polls do not merely represent materialistic discontent over high mortgage rates, inflation and the community charge (all of which will be ameliorated by election time). What if there has been a change of mood, or that the collapse of the Alliance has created a Labour majority. Suppose that Britain is again being gripped by the collectivist instinct; what would life be like under Labour?

The adverse polls last week gave sterling the jitters, so it is safe to assume that the likelihood, let alone the actuality of a Labour government, would force an increase in interest rates to protect the pound. So a new

Labour chancellor would face an early increase in mortgage rates, and rising import prices pushing up the cost of living. If the pound were outside the EC exchange rate mechanism, the devaluation would be swift and sharp. Otherwise, Labour's first international humiliation would be the negotiation of a massive devaluation.

Meanwhile, the government would be receiving bills for a political support operation by the trade unions which would make the alleged support of Guinness shares during the takeover bid look small beer indeed. First to come in would be the IOUs signed by Messrs Meacher, Prescott, Straw, Cunningham, Field, Hattersley and Kinnock, promising substantial gains to workers in the National Health Service, local government, education and transport.

These would be followed by many more. Pensioners, having been told they have been swim-

med by Mrs Thatcher for years, would advance upon the Treasury with pension books open. Patients in the NHS queues would surge forward for treatment in time to beat the staff walkout for more money. Payers of the community charge would expect instant relief, just as local government embarked on even bigger spending parties to celebrate the pay-off for its electoral support.

Travellers on public transport, expecting lower fares and better services, would be left queuing as railwaymen too went home to await their pay rises. In short, the Labour chancellor's main problem would be the expectations raised by Labour's spokesmen over 10 or 12 years.

It would be no good then quoting the small print in Labour's manifesto. The elections vote not according to the small print, but according to the mood music, and the message of the

music is clear and consistent: everyone (except of course the rich) from having more and better of everything. Only she causes health service queues, pollution, illegitimacy, personal debt, floods, traffic jams, railway accidents, poverty, homelessness, drug abuse, and — they might add — dandruff and bad breath to boot.

If the electors replaced her with Mr Kinnock, they would expect all of those problems to be solved, but Labour's answers are those that have failed three times since the war. Not only in Britain, but wherever they have been tried, they have failed, due to the socialist poison.

Labour's favourite poison today includes higher taxation on the more successful, higher wages without higher productivity, higher public expenditure, the allocation of resources by politicians, not by the market.

the restoration of union immunity from actions in tort, more and thicker layers of government.

It is based on the theory of economic management by the incantations of magic spells: some old, such as incomes policy and credit control, some new, such as the exchange rate mechanism, the social charter and monetary union. Past experience suggests that belief in such spells can be sustained only by resort to economic hallucinogens such as exchange controls and subsidies, which, with their short-term effects, are to the European Community what steroids are to the Olympics.

Happily, I doubt that Labour will be put to the test. The electors are saying they want to pay less, not more, for local government, and for national government too. The anger over the community charge is anger at the rising cost of our town halls. High taxation and high public expenditure are not popular; that is a politicians' myth. The Nineties may be different to the Eighties, but the voters are the same. Real net disposable income will be the master key, as it was in 1979, 1983 and 1987. Put that right, John Major, and all will be well.

John Sanders

Teaching by rulebook

Many reasons have been advanced for teachers' low morale: poor pay, shortage of resources, pupil discipline, unsuitable and shabby buildings. While all these play a part, none is so important as loss of status and respect. A teacher is now less likely to command respect than to be pipped at someone who cannot find a better job.

When I started teaching, 40 years ago, pay was low and working conditions were poor, yet many teachers produced excellent results. They had dignity and self-respect, and were respected by the communities they served. And they were, first and foremost, teachers.

After a 10-year break, I recently returned to work as a supply teacher, and immediately noticed the growth of bureaucracy and administration. In the staffroom, piles of paper were everywhere: course particulars, information on schemes of work, pamphlets, booklets, sheets, records. The noticeboard was crammed with details of meetings and in-service seminars. Each day, more papers arrived, more notices were posted. In the classroom, the teacher's desk was submerged under piles of handbooks, brochures and articles. The school seemed to be drowning in a sea of words.

Many of these words have been generated by the introduction of the National Curriculum. Although this is badly needed and should do wonders for standards, the way it is being implemented is proving a great burden to the conscientious teacher. The proposals for English alone occupy more than 70 closely printed pages, covering in minute detail every aspect of the subject, its teaching and assessment. One gets the impression that teachers are so little trusted that everything they do in class must be set out for them.

The assessments require detailed analysis of each pupil's progress, not just in components of a subject (for example, in reading as a part of English), but in "strands" of the component. A typical "strand" in the assessment of reading at Level 5 (about age 11) is "Recognize, in discussion, whether subject matter in non-literary and media texts is presented as fact or opinion." When children reach Level 8 (at age 14), teachers must assess whether each of them can "Express a point of view on a complex subject cogently and with clarity, and interpret alternative viewpoints with accuracy and discrimination."

Continuous assessment, which in effect means assessment during lessons, is needed to evaluate pupils' progress in the many "strands". When it is recognized that in a lesson each child in an average class can expect about one minute of a teacher's individual attention, the problem becomes apparent.

There are other worries, too. For example, there is the teaching of English grammar by young teachers who may have had little formal language training in their own education. Then there are standard assessment tests to be administered, marked and mod-

erated. When is all this to be done? I have been told by several teachers that because of the difficulty of finding the time for detailed reports, they assess impressionistically and then adjust the marks accordingly.

Meetings make up a large part of the teacher's workload. A senior teacher in a school for 1,750 pupils regularly attends year-teachers' meetings, house meetings, meetings of subject teachers, meetings with local employers, parents' meetings, and management meetings. Then there are "sanctions" meetings, at which staff discuss the school's policy towards pupils who break the rules, and "options" meetings for third-year and fifth-year pupils and their parents. Last year there were six of these, one being repeated because it was held during the Hindu festival of Diwali when Indian families were unable to attend. Each Monday pupils are released at 2.45pm so that staff can meet until (nominally) 4.30. There are times when a teacher has a meeting every night of the week.

Teachers still have their routine paper-work to keep up: lesson preparation, marking and assessment, reports and the compilation of pupil profiles (documents on each pupil in each subject, which are given to secondary-school pupils at the end of their fifth year).

This is by no means the end of the story. Cross-consultation with other subject teachers in order to correlate subject content is necessary. Checking projects, writing testimonials for university applicants, pastoral work, liaison with other schools — the list goes on and on. The burden of excessive administration can and should be lightened. As in West Germany, schools should have a clearly defined and limited role, with the stress placed heavily on pupils' academic development. Full or part-time social workers should be attached to schools — as some have nurses — to deal with pastoral work. With access to pupil records, they could take over most of the burden now borne by teachers.

The proposals for the National Curriculum should be returned to new committees with a much larger proportion of serving teachers as members. The responsibility for the way subjects are taught in the classrooms should be placed fairly and squarely on the head teacher. The didactic elements which abound in publications about the National Curriculum must be removed; it is not the function of these committees to tell teachers how to teach. Also, assessment must be simplified: proposals for the teaching of English, for example, should be no more than 25 pages.

At present, the sheer volume of administration is overwhelming teachers, and it is no wonder morale has plummeted. These reforms would free them to do the one thing most teachers want to do: teach.

The author was formerly a secondary school headmaster.

Acting cool, and all that jazz

star in *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* simply by buying a ticket to see it. The Corteslee is not so much a theatre in the round as a floor in the round. The stage's perimeter is the first row of seats. Since I had booked by telephone, I did not know that I should be sitting not merely in the first row, but in pole position. I was next to the piano. I was so next to the piano that I could have made a fair fist of Chopsticks without moving from my seat.

The piano is a major component of August Wilson's fine play, which concerns itself with the 1927 recording session at which the great blues singer and her band

studio to enwrap the title masterpiece. You will now understand why the piano is central to the action; you will further understand why, when the house lights dim, the piano is bathed in a big

fat spotlight of its own; and if you are truly understanding, you will feel empathetic goosebumps bubbling for the one member of the audience forced to share that spotlight with the cast.

Even before the play started, stage fright had desiccated my throat and driven its moisture out through either armpit. How my thumb failed to end up in my eye, God alone knows. This was because I often have a problem at the theatre, and as the spotlight warmed my head, the vision came upon me — since I had paid by an identifying credit card — of, at the end, a management announcement to the effect that the part of the Shoring Philistine

had been played by Alan Coren. I thank my lucky stars that the play was so riveting as to save me from at least this embarrassment. I curse, however, my unlucky ones for the text that drove those rivets home: for *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* derives its conflict from the confrontation between black aspiration and white exploitation. Seven black actors embody the former, three white actors embody the latter. Leaving a fourth white actor (unpaid) trapped between them.

How to react, with 700 spectating eyes on me? A black actor stares into my own from three feet away and delivers a joke simultaneously funny and savage: how much do I laugh, how much do I quail, how far should I manifest my comprehension of the resonances before I blench the theme of white insensitivity upon which the play depends? When the jazz belts out, is it over the top to tap the spotlight feet in time? When the ravishing Jacqueline de Peza shimmys past, bent on seduction, does the fourth white man look at her with lust or dispassion?

Nearly three hours of this, and I acted my heart out; and I thought I had done all right, until the notices came in. You recall last Thursday? It was the day England beat the West Indies, and joy had betrayed me into childishness. But how could I have known, when I was dressing, what the evening would require of me? "In my opinion," said my wife's review, "the MCC tie was a mistake."



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-782 5000

A MAJOR TEST OF NERVE

The fall in the pound, which accelerated yesterday, puts new pressure on the Chancellor, Mr John Major, as he prepares for his first Budget a fortnight today. A drop of nearly 3 per cent in the value of the currency during the past eight days is not the kind of vote of confidence any Chancellor wants at this stage.

To some extent sterling has been suffering in the backwash of movements in other currencies. As the dollar rose last week the pound fell further than most. And as the central banks made their concerted attack to try to reverse the trend — an attack yesterday joined by the Bank of England with sales of dollars for pounds — sterling did not recover with the mark.

But it is clear that although the main focus in foreign exchange markets is on the dollar, sterling is suffering independently of movements in other currencies. The explanation is largely political. Discontent with the poll tax has overflowed the boundaries of Westminster and is seeping corrosively into financial markets. With each new opinion poll seeming to give Labour a bigger lead, holders of sterling are beginning to ask whether there is now enough time before the next general election for Mrs Thatcher to pull the Tories' chestnuts out of the fire.

Concern is not entirely confined to political factors. The gradually rising forecasts as to how high the peak for inflation will rise later this year largely reflect statistical factors rather than underlying inflationary pressure. Higher mortgage rates and the introduction of the poll tax, though they will raise the retail price index, will not of themselves be inflationary — quite the reverse — and to that extent they are less worrying than a rise in the underlying rate. But there is still sufficient uncertainty about the trend in the economy to be unsettling.

Although much of the rise in the trade deficit in January was explicable by special factors, recent trends in imports do not suggest that the

consumer has lost all ambition. Yesterday's consumer credit figures for January show the biggest ever monthly increase in borrowing on credit cards — only a small proportion of total borrowing by the personal sector, but still a move in the wrong direction.

There is no need at this stage for the Government to consider raising interest rates again. At 8.75 in terms of the Bank of England's effective rate index, sterling is still above the lowest levels it reached, just before the new year, after the resignation of the former Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson. If it was right not to raise interest rates then it is right not to raise them now, especially as mortgage rates have caught up with base rates in the meantime. The balance of evidence still suggests that the economy is slowing down and underlying inflationary pressures subsiding, in short that high interest rates are doing the job expected of them.

Weakness in sterling does, however, reinforce the case for a cautious Budget. An extraordinary argument is being advanced in foreign exchange markets that the Government should be wary of raising taxes because that would suggest that counter-inflationary endeavour had switched from monetary to fiscal policy. Markets would conclude that interest rates were about to be cut and would sell sterling accordingly. This carries the absurd implication that fiscal prudence has a perverse effect and pays no dividends in the fight against inflation. But Mr Major has made it as clear as he can that interest rates will stay high for some time. They are most unlikely to come down while sterling is weak.

The Chancellor should frame his Budget on the sound principle that fiscal policy should support, not replace, monetary policy. What precisely that should mean for the size of the Budget surplus next year will be the product of many different influences. It is most unlikely to mean a net cut in taxation.

ANXIETY IN AFRICA

South Africa's whites will take comfort from Mr Nelson Mandela's assurance, repeated in Harare this week, that they should not fear black vengeance in a non-racial society. Their anxieties, however, have less to do with physical vengeance than with another, more insidious, form of retribution: the confiscation of the country's wealth by a post-apartheid government anxious to prove that political freedom bears instant economic fruit. Those fears will not have been lessened by Mr Mandela's endorsement of Zimbabwe as a suitable model for South Africa.

Although it is true that Mr Robert Mugabe has yet to put his Marxist beliefs into practice, the mere fact that he holds them has been enough to frighten off any serious foreign investment in Zimbabwe and to deny it the wherewithal to create employment for its educated but jobless young. Nor is Mr Mugabe alone in clinging to a dead and discredited creed. There are enough true believers in the ANC and in the members and advisers of South Africa's black trade unions to suggest that the battle over its future will be decided not by a new South African constitution, but by the debate over its economic culture.

Since Mr Mandela's ritualistic embrace of nationalization sent shivers down the spine of South African businessmen and international investors, other ANC spokesmen have been careful to soft-pedal their intentions. Thus they have implied that the re-distribution of South Africa's limited wealth — or to put it more realistically, the reallocation of poverty — could take other less obviously draconian forms. Ignoring the lessons of recent history, the ANC and its advisers talk blithely about the virtues of central economic planning in determining the allocation of resources and of investment decisions subjected to the "collective self-consciousness". They also insist that in Eastern Europe it was not the idea that failed, but the people who failed the idea.

THE LIBYAN CONNECTION

The allegations now being directed at Mr Arthur Scargill concerning money said to have come from Libya to support the miners' strike of 1984-85 are a salutary reminder of an insubstantial episode in trade union history that should not be forgotten. But it has more importance than that.

Much of what is now in the public eye, it is true, current knowledge at the time. Thus a *Sunday Times* investigation in November 1984 revealed that Mr Scargill was present at a meeting with a Libyan emissary in Paris, when it was arranged that a then union official, Mr Roger Windsor, should visit Tripoli at the height of the strike. Mr Scargill himself claimed that this meeting, at the headquarters of the French trade union organization CGT, was solely to do with a food convoy being dispatched by the French unions and that his encounter with the Libyan was purely accidental.

On the other hand, there is no doubt that it was at this meeting that Mr Windsor's visit to Colonel Gaddafi was arranged, a visit which was much publicized after it took place. The Libyan leader had it video-recorded and televised, including the notorious embrace between himself and the British miners' representative. Deep resentment was caused in Britain so soon after the wanton murder of WPC Yvonne Fletcher by a bullet from the Libyan Embassy.

What needs particular inquiry now is Mr Windsor's reported statement that the meeting led to a gift of £163,000 (in banknotes) from Libya, and that Mr Scargill and the NUM's other full-time national official used some of the money to pay off "personal debts". Mr Scargill said yesterday that these allegations were "nothing but vicious lies". At the time, Mr Norman Willis said that he had Mr Scargill's assurance that no financial support had been, or would be, sought or received from Libya.

Now Mr Scargill has again categorically

The West, anxious that Africa's only truly industrial state should not be reduced to another third world mendicant, has a vested interest in ensuring that South Africa does not embrace the socialist myth. So does Sub-Saharan Africa, desperate for a vigorous and growing South African economy to rescue it from decay and impoverishment.

There has been much talk of a Southern African Marshall Plan, but a world taken up by the more interesting claims of Eastern Europe is unlikely to keep a socialist South Africa alive with development aid. What is now necessary is to convince South Africa's have-nots that their expectations can best be met by the continued creation of wealth rather than a division of its diminishing spoils. As it moves towards political negotiation, Pretoria should be encouraged to release funds tied up in its swollen defence budget and the administration of apartheid to improve the lives of its black citizens — to upgrade their education and welfare services and, most important of all, to give them access to capital and to property.

Even then, its ability to ease the plight of South Africa's black poor will continue to be hampered by sanctions. Because of the oil embargo, billions of rand which could be used for black development remain tied up in huge and unnecessary oil reserves. South Africa is also unique among developing nations in being compelled to maintain a balance of payments surplus and curtail growth while denied access to the International Monetary Fund.

So long as Mr Mandela calls for continued sanctions, however, much of the world will remain deaf to more reasoned arguments. The removal of these constraints, together with the insistence that the benefits flow directly to black South Africa, would remove at a stroke the need for massive development aid and blunt the desire of the poor and the deprived for the illusory remedies of socialism.

denied receiving any money from any sources in Libya during or since the strike. He states that if any money did come from Libya, the union officials were unaware of it. Likewise, he asserts that no money "donated for union members or hardship purposes was used for the personal needs of national officials."

Even so, the matter needs further impartial inquiry, especially, perhaps, in the light of claims by other former union officials that union members were left uninformed about the use made of £1 million apparently received from the Soviet Union. That such money was arranged seems not to be in doubt since Mr McGahey, the then president of the Scottish NUM, openly named himself as the link for the receipt of \$1,138,000 from Soviet trade unions.

Once again the inquiries of the press into a matter of public concern underline the importance of ensuring that the protection of the individual's privacy should not impede inquiry into matters of genuine public importance; it is a point of which the Calcutt committee on privacy, and its violation by newspapers, should take due account.

More immediately, it is significant that these allegations, whatever their substance, do not constitute an attack on Mr Scargill by the "Tory press." They come from union officials who have been directly involved and their case has been deployed in particular detail by the Labour-supporting *Daily Mirror*.

In an editorial comment, its proprietor, Mr Robert Maxwell, points to the damage Mr Scargill and his colleagues did to the miners whom he describes (in the words of a German general used of the British forces in the First World War) as "lions led by donkeys". If anything like the allegations now made were true, "donkeys" is altogether too benign a word to apply to the miners' leaders. For its own honour, the TUC should seek to commission a wholly independent inquiry and publish the full findings.

Political puzzles and the poll tax

From the Leader of Milton Keynes Borough Council
Sir, Following on the reservations from other authorities which have already been expressed about community charge in your columns (February 27; March 1) may I point out the following few points which relate to Milton Keynes Borough Council.

The standard spending assessment (SSA) fails to accommodate growth in the expenditure needed for a growing population. Milton Keynes is the fastest-growing district in the country and it is 38 per cent over its current SSA, which is £13,933,000. On closer examination, however, this can be seen to be due to two factors.

1. The topographical figures are calculated on the June, 1988, status in a city which has grown by 9.7 per cent, or 20,000, since that date, and this should qualify for an extra £1.2 million on the SSA.
2. The variable in the formula which is intended to be the measure sensitive to growth is that which measures capital debt. The SSA assumes that Milton Keynes's capital debt is just under £9 million. It is virtually £35 million — a Whitehall miscalculation of over 400 per cent, i.e. £3.5 million, when translated into money terms.

We believe the SSA should be £4.6 million higher, which, at £18.6 million, would mean we are well within the Government's permitted limits. Surely it doesn't make sense when one part of the Department of the Environment appears to be building Milton Keynes through its development corporation while another is pretending that the city is not being built at all.

Yours sincerely,
SAM CROOKS, Leader (Liberal Democrat), Milton Keynes Borough Council, Civic Offices, 1 Saxon Gate East, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, March 2.

From Mr B. Russell-Jones
Sir, In his article, "Storms today..." (February 27), Woodrow Wyatt seeks to rally the Tory troops, exhorting them to "resume

Radio franchises

From Mr Ian Woolf
Sir, Joseph Hay's letter (February 27) prompts me to write. The importance of radio in commercial terms may be judged by the keen interest which the prospect of these new stations has aroused among a number of entrepreneurs. This suggests that substantial audiences are also likely to be attracted.

For this reason, and if we are to avoid creating a series of mere juke-boxes on the American model, it is essential that arrangements be made to maintain proper standards of broadcasting.

Where the bulk of the output is concerned (music) the audience will be quick to make a judgement and switch off if it does not like what it hears. Not so in the case of news and information, in which the listener relies heavily on the integrity and competence of the operator who, at the application stage, should be expected to show both the desire and the ability to provide an efficient news and information element in the proposed service.

Yours faithfully,
IAN WOOLF, Institute of Directors, 116 Pall Mall, SW1.

Broadcasting values

From Mr J. B. Donnelly
Sir, Barbara Amiel's column (February 23) admirably demonstrates that it is no easier to draw up value-free questionnaires than it is to produce value-free broadcasting.

Perhaps she and Lord Wyatt, like Brian Redhead, should try every day for a year. We could then judge fairly who has come closest to her ideal. But I fear that the price of perfect balance, whether for *Today* or *Barbara Amiel's* column, would be boredom — and that would be no bargain.

Yours sincerely,
BRIAN DONNELLY, Deliyanni 30, 145 62 Kifissia, Athens, Greece.

Help for hedgehogs

From Mr A. H. Coles
Sir, I was pleased to read (report, February 15) of the thoughtful action of the builders of the new £40 million road at Bingley, West Yorkshire, in providing an underground pipe for such wild animals as voles and hedgehogs to get to the other side. This is a splendid example of how we should all be thinking.

My society publishes information of other ways of ensuring that the hedgehog can live relatively unperturbed by major developments such as motorways. Another example is by providing one sloping side to cattle-grid pits to enable any wild animal to crawl to safety should it fall in.

Yours faithfully,
A. H. COLES (Founder), British Hedgehog Preservation Society, Knowbury House, Knowbury, Ludlow, Shropshire.

Soviet reshuffle

From Mrs Lesley Bright
Sir, For Mr Mynett's (February 27) information, Vodka Gorbachov was alive and well and on sale in Bavaria last week.
Yours sincerely,
LESLAY BRIGHT, Greenstones, Rookery Way, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, February 27.

their traditional loyalty and... not run for cover... when frightened by enemy gunfire. But, to follow his military metaphor, what are even the plie troops to do when they see their officers negligently wounding themselves, failing to look after the welfare of their troops, and alienating unnecessarily the local population in the battle area?

"Time spent in reconnaissance is seldom wasted" is a maxim which might usefully have been applied to the community charge, although it has to be said that there was ample forewarning that it might prove to be a minefield. It never had any real claim to equity and none to efficacy. With "capitulation" it has lost any claim to a political virtue of promoting "accountability".

Its double penalty on empty or second homes, whence there are either no calls, or less calls than usual, upon community services, adds illogically to inequity. Its effects on small businesses are likely to be profoundly damaging.

In the light of this and other avoidable tactical errors and reverses the generals have nobody but themselves to blame if their troops' morale is at a low ebb. Exhortation alone is not enough to restore it.

Yours faithfully,
B. RUSSELL-JONES, Barncroft, Long Compton, Shipston-on-Stour, Warwickshire.
From the Reverend Dr John T. Watson
Sir, What I find disquieting about this rumour over the poll tax is the general concern there appears to be over the so-called unfairness, while some of us, living alone and on small pensions, hardly earned, have for years been paying more than double what presently we shall be doing.

Has no one any regard for us some in their eighties (like me) and struggling to keep up payment of rates simply because we were hard-working and thrifty enough to buy, not rent, a house?

Yours,
JOHN T. WATSON, 16 Beverington Road, Eastbourne, Sussex.

Radiation damage

From Dr John K. Spearing
Sir, You report (February 23) that an editorial in *The Lancet* counters Professor Gardner's findings of radiation damage to human sperm by quoting the lack of corroborative evidence from the Japanese atomic bombings.

These differences are not incompatible; there may indeed be a different effect when the radiation is given in one large dose instead of in a relatively mild one spread over a long period, but more probable is the explanation offered by Dr Rosalis Bertell in a paper in 1979.

She points out that the data from the American Tri-State Leukemia Survey reveal a highly significant tendency for child leukaemia victims with a history of *in-utero*, post-natal, or even parental diagnostic X-ray exposure to develop pre-leukaemic diseases such as pneumonia, dysentery, and rheumatic fever, and that under the chaotic conditions obtaining after the bombing many children who would otherwise have died of leukaemia had already died of these diseases, so totally invalidating any conclusion based on leukaemic mortality.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN K. SPEARING, Shepherds Fold, Applethwaite, Keswick, Cumbria, February 26.

Ton or tonne?

From Mr R. J. Morgan
Sir, Mr John Peck's belief (February 28) that the use of the English word "ton" should now replace the French "tonne" to signify 1,000 kg is surely misguided. Unlike our currency, Britain does not have exclusive rights to the Imperial system of weights and measures, and this system remains in use in the United States and many outposts of the old Empire. Therefore, to abolish the written distinction between the Imperial and metric "tons" would create totally unnecessary confusion in our trade with these countries.

In any case, should we not acknowledge in our language the fact that the metric system is one of the few genuinely useful things the French have given us?

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD MORGAN, 29 Elmridge, Exeter, Devon, February 28.

Greville Wynne

From Mr Nigel West
Sir, In your obituary of Greville Wynne (March 1) you mentioned that he had received an apology for comments made about him in my book, *The Friends*.

Whilst it is true that my publishers, Weidenfeld & Nicolson, made an apology and paid him damages, I declined to do so as I was confident that any libel jury would find my remarks fully justified.

The reason why Mr Wynne subsequently decided to drop his separate action for defamation was the evidence I accumulated about his many spurious assertions, such as his claim to have worked for British intelligence during the war and to have held various commissioned ranks.

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL WEST, 310 Fulham Road, SW10, March 1.

Fourth Estate in Eastern Europe

From Mr George Fischer
Sir, Your portmanteau treatment of the press in central and Eastern Europe in today's leader (March 1) does less than justice to the peculiarities of the countries concerned.

A mushrooming of the daily newspapers and journals there has certainly been, but of the 400 publications you refer to in Hungary well over 100 have ceased publication and during the past 12 months or so the majority of the dailies and periodicals have been selling fewer copies.

There are about 30 daily national and regional newspapers and some 50 weeklies and journals available at news-stands. The highly successful ones include the tabloid daily *Ma Nap* ("Today") and the weekly *Reform*, of which 50 per cent in each case is owned by Mr Rupert Murdoch.

Mr Robert Maxwell, too, is part of the Hungarian press scene, but has done less well. He owns 43 per cent of the daily *Magyar Hirlap* ("Magyar Gazette"), which is heavily indebted.

The inevitable price of a free press has been the massive growth of a wide range of porn magazines. Some are glossy and very expensive. Their publishers are reputed to be among the *nouveaux riches* of Hungarian society.

The Fourth Estate in central and Eastern Europe, just like the rest of the body politic, finds itself in financially harsh and politically unfamiliar circumstances.

Those who provide illumination and pleasure will survive and prosper. They will also assist their readers to establish a democratic state, with or without Western help.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE FISCHER, 66 Highland Road, Bromley, Kent, March 1.

Choice in schools

From the President of the Girls' Schools Association
Sir, David Jewell's excellent article ("Why we'll be independent of the curriculum", Education, February 26) well outlined the main reasons why most independent schools will be not inside but alongside the National Curriculum at key stage 4, the two years leading up to GCSE, unless there is considerably more loosening of the present constraints.

It is an unfortunate paradox that a Government which upholds the principle of parental choice so strongly seems to be imposing such a strait-jacket on the schools from which they have to choose, be they independent or maintained.

Girls' schools, in particular, have traditionally embraced a broad and balanced curriculum and, in principle, have welcomed the National Curriculum, not least because of the nudge it has given us towards more balanced science and technology within our walls. It will be regrettable if we continue to make our own decisions outside its confines.

Why can the principle of choice not be extended to those who run schools, independent or maintained, to decide, as they traditionally have, what subjects to offer for GCSE, and in what combinations, outside a much smaller core

'The Three Graces'

From Sir Denis Mahon, FBA
Sir, Your report (March 3) on the possibilities now available for retaining Canova's "The Three Graces" in the country for which it was commissioned refers to the question as to where, if retained, it might best be located. I would like to suggest that the ideal location would be for the group to be placed in the centre of the area under the dome in the magnificently restored Barry rooms at the National Gallery.

I cannot imagine that either Mr Rothschild, to whom we owe a great debt for the imaginatively constructive offer which he has made, or the Minister for the Arts, Mr Richard Luce, would wish to raise any objection to this.

Kidney donor cards

From Mr Charles Curry
Sir, In her letter (February 24) Elizabeth Ward refers to lost organs which could have saved lives but were not available because the potential donors were not carrying their donor cards. This is because the cards possibly got mislaid or lost, and if found would not find their way back to the owner.

In 1977 it was announced that a donor card would be issued with every driving licence, and in 1982 Mr Kenneth Clarke, Parliamentary Under Secretary for Transport, announced that in future most driving licences would be redesigned to include a portion for organ-donor purposes, which could be detached if not needed.

It seems that the latter provision had been taken away since 1986 in order to comply with EC regulations and that full English licences are now again issued with a separate donor card. I fear that many lives will be lost as the result of this needless change.

Yours etc.,
CHARLES CURRY, Ivyholme, Hare Lane, New Milton, Hampshire.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01)782 5946.

From Dr George Baracs
Sir, I spent the better part of the last 10 weeks in Budapest assisting in launching a joint venture for publishing one of the prestigious daily papers in Budapest aimed at making the paper better informed, livelier, but first and foremost independent.

I can testify from personal experience to every word in your leading article and I am happy to mention that the otherwise excellent editorial staff of the Hungarian paper will be trained in this country in the use of modern hardware which is to be delivered to Hungary as part of the British investment in the joint venture.

It is equally true (however sad it is) that the papers are lacking not only modern equipment but also the management skills "needed to survive in what are becoming highly competitive markets". During the old regime in Hungary (I left it only after the revolution in January, 1957) one of the favourite topics of the brainwashing exercises was how to emulate the "socialist Soviet man".

The difficulties of perestroika show that the Stalinists were quite successful in the creation of that type of man — totally lacking in initiative, avoiding taking any responsibility, and waiting for commands from higher authorities even in the most trivial pursuits. They partly succeeded in Hungary as well.

It is easier to find 10 talented editors-in-chief than one businessman to act as a successful manager, making the paper self-supporting. In my humble view one of the most immediate tasks for the West is to train the new generation of Eastern Europe in management skills.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE BARACS, Mishcon de Reya (Solicitors), 125 High Holborn, W.C1.

(English, maths, science, modern language, and a practical subject?), thus acknowledging the different strengths of different individuals, even at 14? This would, incidentally, also ensure maximum choice for children, parents, and schools.

Yours faithfully,
TATIANA MACAIRE, President, Girls' Schools Association, 130 Regent Road, Leicester, February 28.

Student loans

From Mr S. Dobney
Sir, Contrary to the views of some of your readers (letters, February 26) the argument for loans against grants has not been won. In fact, neither are a very good solution to a pressing problem. It is the employers who demand that students study to gain skills comparable with their talent. Yet these very employers take the training given by the colleges for free, merely paying a marginally higher wage to the students.

Perhaps the misguided dichotomy of loans vs. grants should be expanded to encompass the very people demanding more graduates. Indeed, should businesses not pay colleges for training the people they later employ?

Yours respectfully,
S. DOBNEY, 219 Northfield Avenue, Ealing, W13.

As far as the actual acquisition is concerned, a rapid resolution is now clearly necessary; and Mr Rothschild's scheme requires nothing more than Treasury willingness to accept a major artistic masterpiece to be retained by the nation rather than the equivalent amount of all too expendable cash.

Mr Ridley's way of thinking, in so far as I understand its implications, has excellent potentialities, but could (as has been rightly pointed out) lead to abuses. It accordingly requires more time for careful consideration than is available for dealing with the immediate problem of settling the fate of Canova's sculpture.

Yours faithfully,
DENIS MAHON, 33 Cadogan Square, SW1.

From Mr Frank Watson
Sir, On the reverse of every driver's licence issued by the province of Ontario, Canada, is printed a form of consent, under the Ontario Human Tissue Act, for transplant, treatment, or medical research of a) any needed organ or tissue; b) only the organs or tissue specified; or c) the entire body if needed.

There is a space to show the donor's age and boxes are provided in which to indicate what may be removed.
Yours faithfully,
FRANK WATSON, 38 Plantation Road, Oxford.

A quick run-through

From Mr Brian Parker
Sir, You report (February 20) Mrs Albert Einstein's contribution to the theories of relativity. Although I am a physicist and my wife is a teacher of humanities, it is she who has arrived at a practical method of time dilation. She records required television programmes, such as *Neighbours* and *Howard's Way*, and views them on fast-forward, thereby expanding her precious time.

So far she has been unable to effect similar improvements with *The Archers*.
Yours sincerely,
B. H. PARKER, Rook House, Victoria Road, Dartmouth, Devon.

Current shockers

TELEVISION

Sheridan Morley

Monday having been designated current-affairs night on television, a decision which must go back to the BBC's scheduling of *Panorama* there some time in the middle 1950s, three major documentaries were scheduled last night (plus, of course, *Central TV's Cook Report Special*, which has made front-page, not arts-page news). All were alarming in the stories they told of democracy in decay all over the world.

Panorama (BBC 1) itself came closest to home with Jane Corbin's investigation of the Police Complaints Commission. At a time when there is an unprecedented public crisis of confidence in the wake of the Guildford Four case, the break-up of the West Midlands Crime Squad and the Wapping report, police are still demanding the rights to investigate complaints against themselves, and refusing, in some cases, to suspend officers who have been shown to falsify evidence.

Families told of midnight raids, mistaken arrests, blackmail used to solicit statements - while Peter Imbert, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, admitted that officers are "still hiding behind the system". Lord Scarman called for the complete abolition of the Commission but, faced with mounting allegations of malpractice, there still seems to be remarkably little achieved in the way of tougher sanctions or public police dismissals.

World in Action (ITV) went further afield, to the small Romanian town of Focsani deep in the Moldavian plains, where two months after Ceausescu's death they found a nightmare of bureaucratic muddle and betrayed idealism. While the revolutionary victors tried to carve democracy out of a dictatorship, food queues are growing longer, the old villains are regaining power by default, and the new leaders are unable to sort out the chaos of a political system in transition, leaving the people too shell-shocked to benefit and the system itself ripe for a counter-revolution that grows more chillingly possible by the day.

On Channel Four, *Crucible* turned to South Africa, where four white anti-apartheid brothers have been charged mysteriously with the destruction of their own property. The white community has isolated and bankrupted the Watson brothers but it cannot even now defeat their liberalism: democracy appears to be surviving under pressure in South Africa and Romania, though perhaps not in a British police station.

Benedict Nightingale argues that our subsidized theatre companies are neglecting their duty to present and continue to re-evaluate contemporary British dramatists

Time to play our own

- DOUGLAS H. JEFFERY

Nicol Williamson with Sheila Allen in John Osborne's *Landmark Evidence*, at the Royal Court, 1964

Surprisingly, it has never happened before. Our national theatre companies have sent the West End new work and adaptations, reclaimed classics and even the odd musical: a *Les Mis*, a *Gypsy*, and *Dolls*. But tonight, when *Bent* moves from Lyttelton to Garrick, is the first time either National or RSC has transferred a revival of a recent home-grown play.

As unique events go, that may not be exactly apocalyptic. But it points out a larger lapse. Recent home-grown plays are never transferred because recent home-grown plays are so rarely revived by either National or RSC. In their wish to do justice to this or that period, they have almost entirely ignored the theatrical period bang beneath their educated noses.

How else can one now describe the three-odd decades since John Osborne's *Look Back in Anger* first blistered our ears with its blowtorch rhetoric? Future theatre historians will not merely categorize our century's second half as a distinct "period". They will surely talk of a renaissance of drama: not as extraordinary as the one that occurred under the first Elizabeth, but richer than those sparked by the Restoration playwrights, or Shaw and Granville Barker in the 1890s and 1900s.

Some of our era's plays have dwelt on the individual, some on the world he or she edgily inhabits. But together they embody the anxiety, pain, frustration, challenge, comedy, and occasionally even exhilaration of living in times that raise a million private and public questions and definitively answer none. Think of David Storey's *Contractor*, evoking a peculiarly modern impermanence by the simple device of showing the raising and lowering of a wedding tent. Think of Alan Ayckbourn's bleakly hilarious study of class mobility, *Abroad Person Singular*, or Joe Orton's scurrilous *Loot*, or, indeed, Sherman's Auschwitz play *Bent*: as shattering a contribution to sexual history now as when the Royal Court first produced it in 1979.

Of course, both national companies have helped to create this renaissance, giving us new work by Arden, Ayckbourn, Gray, Shaffer, Nichols, Bond, Griffiths, Wood. Had the National not put on his *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*, Stoppard might still be an unknown playwright. Had the RSC not assayed his *Homecoming*, Pinter might now be better known as a screenwriter than as a playwright.

The RSC, of course, has an obligation to its house-dramatist, Shakespeare. It also has marginally the better record, having revived eight recent British plays in its 30-year history, compared with seven by the National in a slightly shorter time. But it has chosen narrowly and, sometimes, eccentrically. It has staged no fewer than three pieces by Edward Bond, and has disintegrated Howard Brenton's paranoid *Churchill Play* twice, despite Britain's refusal to become that concentration camp of its author's predictions.

The National's revivals have

ranged from Wesker's *Roots* and Stoppard's short *Real Inspector Hound* to David Hare's *Fanshen*. But two of those productions were mounted for educational tours, and settled only briefly into the Cottesloe. Moreover, this is a company which has revived plays by Shaw on nine occasions, Ibsen and Chekhov on eight each, and Molière on seven.

With new productions planned of his *Crucible* and *After the Fall*, even Arthur Miller will have rated seven National revivals. Yet London still awaits a serious opportunity to reassess such striking stuff as Peter Nichols's *Day in the Death of Joe Egg*, Simon Gray's *Churchill Engaged*, and Caryl Churchill's *Top Girls*.

Those plays would seem enough in themselves to counter one objection to this line of argument, that it can become a chauvinist numbers game. It is true that dramatic eloquence may transcend country and period. The National's revival of *Fuente Ovejuna*, which Lope de Vega wrote in 1612, was a more scathing critique of class privilege than Edward Bond's laborious

Jackets II, now at the Bush. But there must be 60 home-grown plays which merit what only the National or RSC can offer: prestige, class, and ensemble acting.

Everyone will have a different list. Mine would extend to Arden's *Armstrong's Last Goodnight*, Wood's *Veterans*, Fray's *Clam*, E.A. Whitchard's *Old Flames*, Rodkin's *Asher*, Hare's *Plenty*, Bond's *The Fool*, Griffiths's *Comedians*, and Osborne's *Inadmissible Evidence*, still the best study of the male menopause yet written.

And what about the late C.P. Taylor's wry yet devastating portrait of the making of an SS killer, *Good! What of the forgotten Peter Terson*, author of the archetypal football-hooligan drama *Zigger Zagger*, or the neglected Mustafa Matur, surely our finest black playwright?

We are, after all, talking about drama certain to seize the mind and feelings as boldly as any being written nowadays, in what one fears is the sunset of our renaissance: modern classics, which it would be criminal not to cherish.

Conquest of the past

DANCE

John Percival

Kirov Ballet
Paris Opera

Just imagine the difference it would have made to ballet this century if Balanchine had not left Leningrad at the age of 20. Diaghilev would have lacked his last great choreographer, Stravinsky his ideal collaborator. New York City Ballet, if it existed at all, would be entirely other than it is. And pure dance might not have gained its ascendancy over old-style story ballets.

Balanchine needed the influence of Diaghilev, Stravinsky and New York City to develop (among other styles) the kind of evocative, music-inspired ballets he created in *Scotch Symphony* and *Theme and Variations*, both of which were mounted in Leningrad last year by two of his former American colleagues, respectively Suzanne Farrell and Francis Russell. Thus, six years after his death, the fruits of his long self-imposed artistic exile came home to his mother company.

Already the Kirov Ballet has shown them - to a somewhat carping reception - in New York. Last week they reached Paris; London can expect them in the summer. Both, by evoking past eras, draw attention to connections between French, Russian, American and British traditions.

Inspired by a visit to the Edinburgh Festival in 1952, *Scotch Symphony* uses the last three movements of Mendelssohn's music for homage to the oldest surviving romantic ballet, *La Sylphide*, and its period. Effervescent creatures in pink tulle are partnered by men in predominantly red tartan kilts, light sylph. The folded arms and twirling feet of Scottish dancing are transformed into ballet steps.

Theme and Variations, to the last movement of Tchaikovsky's Suite No 3, was commissioned by Ballet Theatre in 1947 to show off two great stars, Alonso and Youskevitch. It incarnates a past grandeur: imperial Russia seen through mid-20th-century eyes and bodies. There are solos of baffling virtuosity; a big duet encompassing contrasted moods; swift and slow entries for a female ensemble; and a ceremonious finale to cumulative fanfares.

Judging by two casts I saw, these productions suit the Kirov women better than the men. Elena Pankova is beautifully light and swift as the sylph; Galina Mezentseva does that role with more gracious serenity. Larissa Lezhnina, a slim young blonde not seen before in Western Europe, has quick, pretty solos in *Scotch*.



Shrewd hero: Andris Liepa

Symphony full of scintillating jumps and entrechats.

Of course the Kirov dancers perform these works very differently from Balanchine's own company, but that was something he himself always seemed happy to accept, and if one misses American clarity and precision, Russian lyricism is something to be welcomed.

Oleg Vinogradov, the Kirov director, has drawn meticulously detailed backcloths (uncredited in the Paris programmes) for both these productions, the one for *Theme and Variations* showing the great blue and gold 19th-century auditorium of the Kirov Theatre: an apt welcome for a prodigal's return.

The spirit of change that allowed Vinogradov to mount these works has permitted him to add a third ballet to this programme, his own political reinterpretation of *Petrushka*, created last year for Scottish Ballet and given its Kirov company premiere in Paris.

He has sharpened some details, including the caricatures of Stalin, Brezhnev and Khrushchev, and the ballet gains from the greater numbers and experience of the Kirov corps de ballet.

The title role, a lone figure resisting oppression until his death stirs others to join the struggle, went first to Andris Liepa, the young former Bolshoi star who is now a regular Kirov guest. His interpretation, splendidly danced, makes *Petrushka* a shrewd figure, seeing through the guileful promises of politicians and using a clown's disguise to hide his wiles. Sergei Vikharev, a dancer of sinuously soft fluency, proved even more moving, playing the part as a holy innocent, fired with a fervour he seems hardly to understand himself.

Dance into the future

ROCK

Alasdair Crewe

Johnny Clegg

and Savuka
Hammersmith Odeon

Johnny Clegg offers living proof that it is possible to become an international success without making it big in the UK. Though his intoxicating blend of traditional Zulu styles and rock music has already given him platinum albums and number one singles in most parts of the world, such success has so far eluded him in Britain, despite his building up a dedicated following through his celebratory live shows.

Fittingly for the last European dates of a gruelling world tour, the hall was packed with dancing bodies on both nights, as Clegg led the seven-piece band through a selection of material from

Savuka's three albums, plus songs from his early days with Juluka.

With the latest album, *Cruel, Crazy, Beautiful World*, Savuka's sound has evolved a much harder feel. Clegg now gives his guitar playing a freer rein, using the intricate, fluid Zulu-style to great effect on new material such as "Your Time Will Come" and "Bombs Away". The new single, "One (Hu)Man, One Vote" offers a rallying cry for democracy, pointing to the resonance between events in Eastern Europe and in South Africa.

Clegg's consistent opposition to apartheid has put him at the centre of negotiations over the fine-tuning of the cultural boycott of South Africa, at the behest of the ANC and SAMA (the South African Musicians' Alliance).

Dance is still a strong visual element of the stage show, though with dancer Du Du Zulu injured, it was left to backing singer Mandisa Dlanga to accompany Clegg in his loose-limbed dances.

Enchanted grandeur

CONCERT

Noël Goodwin

Philharmonia/Giulini
Festival Hall

A need to end all four movements of Brahms's Third Symphony softly and at a moderate tempo has never been the problem for Carlo Maria Giulini that it has for some conductors.

He found an exact way of reaching so quiet a resolution of big-scale symphonic argument in a masterly performance with The Philharmonia, at the start of a programme he will give again here tomorrow.

There was immense dignity and not a little passion as the work unfolded with a measured and rhythmic poise that denied nothing of grandeur to the outer movements, yet could make the Andante seem almost like a lullaby.

Separate instrumental strands

could slide through a richness of texture that seemed to take on a quite different balance by having the violas on the platform seated outside the collar.

Reasoned symphonic discussion was followed in the second part by fairy-tale enchantment, in two gorgeously coloured tapestries hung side by side. Translucent misty of instrumental shading brought a shimmering beauty to Ravel's *Mother Goose* suite though it could be thought unwelcome of any conductor, in Britain in March, to programme this in and risk the disruption of its fabric by so brash a conductor as him.

The *Finebird* has a sturdier texture, and the six panels that make up Stravinsky's 1919 suite from the ballet were here balanced between sharply accented rhythms and lilting grace of phrasing, the finales of this and of Ravel achieving a glowing grandeur. After each suite the orchestral soloists were deservedly given separate calls, though in fact the ensemble created no less.

Heart-breaking skills

THEATRE

Alasdair Cameron

Freaks

Tramway, Glasgow

"The members of my company are not disabled, they are actors," declares Genevieve de Kermabon of the cast of the provocatively named *Freaks*, which is the first international production of Glasgow's 1990 theatre season. This caution is unnecessary. Though at first we may notice the disabilities of many of the company, these are almost instantly forgotten.

The cast of *Freaks* displays a theatrical skill, beauty and grace, which would banish all patronizing thoughts from even the most insensitive voyeur. What de Kermabon and her company provide is a piece of pure theatre which moves, thrills and delights us and finally breaks our hearts.

The story is simple and set in a circus. The dwarf (the word is used) Hans has fallen in love with the trapeze artist Cleopatra, "queen of air and space", forsaking his fiancée Freda. Cleopatra conspires to marry Hans and then to poison him and inherit his money.

Her plot is discovered, however, and other members of the circus pursue Cleopatra, wanting revenge for her greed and her insulting description of them as

monsters. But in the end it is her own fear which destroys her.

This final scene is thrillingly staged on a safety net high above the heads of the audience. We are spared the sight of her destruction, because "evil when it is laid bare is too horrible to look at". We are also chastened because we realize that in this mirror world the abominable are the real freaks.

De Kermabon disclaims any purpose for *Freaks* other than to relate a story. Using blue light and flaming torches Alain Poisson, the lighting designer, and de Kermabon create an eerie atmosphere, heightened by ethereal music from outlandish instruments which look like amaryllis lilies.

Surreal touches such as a large blue cat with sparkling eyes, a chariot with dragon-fly wings and a gilded dragon figurehead spitting fireworks, serve further to unsettle us. In a particularly stunning nightmare sequence, the performers become genuinely terrifying shadows and Cleopatra seems to fulfil her desire to die "in an angel's leap without wings". The sequence is one of those moments when you realize the inadequacy of words in the face of pure theatre.

Glasgow's festivals unit has planned an exciting season for the Tramway Theatre in 1990; I doubt if they will better *Freaks*. The seven performances in Glasgow are the last ever. No one who loves theatre should miss them.

Lightly brushed by a bat's wing

OPERA

Hilary Finch

Die Fledermäus
Grand, Belfast

Opera Northern Ireland has just opened its first spring season. A substantial increase in both sponsorship and support from Belfast City Council has enabled it to do so; and if it is able to build on the success of this *Fledermaus* it could well have a nicely complementary light-repertoire slot to balance the main autumn run.

Although not entirely home-grown, this is one of the most stylish shows to grace Grand Matcham's Victorian theatre in some years. The production has been borrowed from Welsh National: it is Helmut Polixa's slightly self-conscious but most handsomely designed (Kathryn Keger) staging, with its polar-bear rug, glass-domed ballroom and floor-to-ceiling prison. Tim Coleman, Opera Northern Ireland's resident dramaturg, has directed this run, finding his own sharp balance of force and finesse.



Instinctive: Coleman-Wright

He could not have achieved such a pageant of dapper exits and entrances, minutely-timed dialogue and a veritable tightrope of movement and interrelationships without the collaboration of David Parry in the pit. Their partnership is the key to the chemistry: the reason why a pair of trousers falling down or a jacket being put on complete with its clothes' hanger works beyond the level of crude farce is simply because a context has been created. And that context, drawn from string playing vividly phrased and as light as the brush

of a bat's wing, creates a tension between simplicity and sophistication which is at the heart of Johann Strauss's operetta.

Parry has not only a keenly responsive Ulster Orchestra at his fingertips, but a nicely-picked cast whose balance of the young and the older trouper sends off sparks. Rosalinde, Eisenstein and Alfredo are all blessed with useful natural voices and the intelligence to hone them dramatically. Susan Bullock, Adrian Thompson and Peter Coleman-Wright play their trios instinctively, and Thompson's wooing song went down like the finest Tokai.

Sandra Dugdale and Thomas Lawlor anchor the performance in earlier humour as a vocally astute Adèle and a delightfully opera-bating Frosch. The warden is all but upstaged by the governor. Eric Roberts' Frank provides a virtuosic cameo of near Marcesque movement. Verona James is a pert, lightweight Orlofsky with some fine Russian labials; Mark Holland a somewhat sombre Falke. There are further performances tonight, Thursday and Saturday; *Fledermaus* fans across the water should make straight for the next Shuttle.



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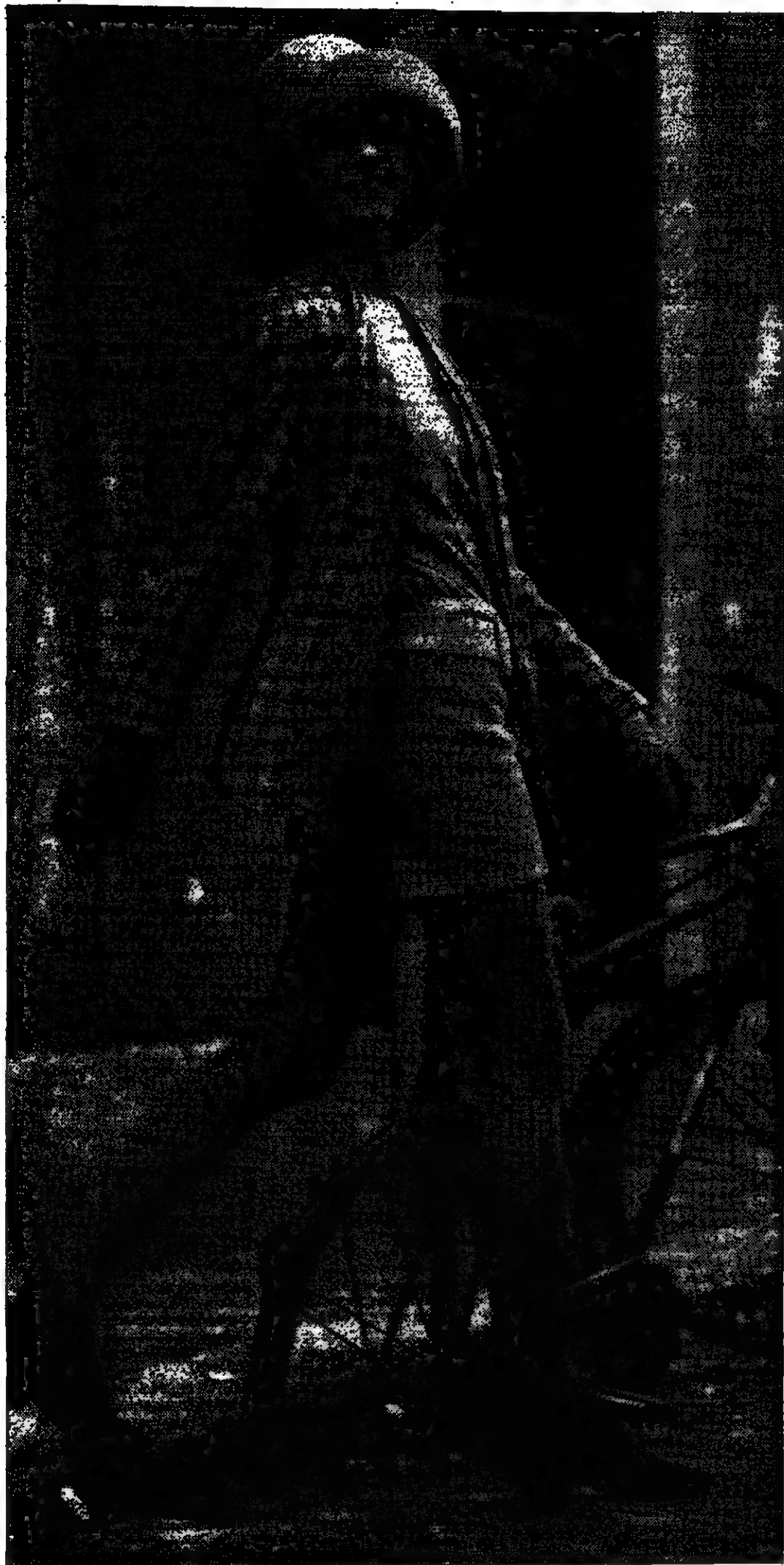
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MILAN FASHION by Liz Smith

Italian style in easy lessons



The winter collections parading down the catwalks of Milan are bursting with real, rugged clothes — duffel coats and parkas — but in glowing colours and fancy fabrics

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Top left: New slouch double-fronted jacket in beige and brown checks, with cream knitted shorts and squashy felt hat, Emporio Armani
Top right: Yellow quilted parka over tartan shorts jumpsuit, Oliver by Valentino
Above left: Hooded yellow suede parka, Versace by Gianni Versace
Above right: Hooded coat in turquoise and gold brocade, Gianfranco Ferré
Photographs by TIM SPENCER

short tight skirts as well as lapping over the shoulders of tailored jackets.
The two British designers at Byblos, Alan Cleaver and Keith Varty, always create relaxed, sporty clothes, and this season their anoraks and shawl-collared coats come in Mexican blanket wool.
MaxMara, one of Italy's top-selling labels, to be found in stores across the UK, translated the look at its most wearable with beautiful thick-ple travel coats with drawstring waists, and hooded parkas in padded silk, worn over narrow trousers or leggings.
Even Gianni Versace, known for his structured, glamorous line, had relaxed his look, "these are clothes for women who go to work", he claims. His brightly coloured trench coats cinched tight over a bodyhugging slimp of a dress, and his favourite micro-short skirts, are obviously designed for the women he sees in his studio, such as his tiny blonde sister, Donatella, poured into leggings.

Nevertheless Versace has turned his extravagance and paraded one of his best collections ever, with sporty-looking blousons and parkas executed in vibrant shades of emerald, violet and pink.
Gianfranco Ferré, celebrated for his architectural silhouettes, endorses the new relaxed mood with long coats cut

like a bathrobe, bomber jackets, and hooded duffel coats that celebrate the luxury and colour that sum up Italian fashion. "I love simply sporty shapes in rich fabrics," he says of his oriental, porcelain-patterned brocades and bronze lace, layered to look like tweed, and the gold-sequined pullovers that are the stars of his collection. Since everybody has now copied Ferré's signature white shirt with its high collar and deep cuff, he has replaced it with a grey turtle neck.
Nobody need expect a straight catwalk show from Franco Moschino. The designer whose current passion is his new wardrobe of Savile Row suits, and whose publicity campaign — featuring a vampire who feeds on fashion victims — carries the slogan "Stop the Fashion System", is staging a happening at the Fiera tomorrow.

The new Moschino line? "They are just clothes," he shrugs. "Like last season and the season before that."
For the uninitiated, this means a jeans jacket in ruffled brocade or a Marie Antoinette panniered skirt mixed with a fringed suede cowboy jacket. Clothes are not taken seriously by Moschino. "I may be a jester," he says, "but I am a suggester, an observer, even a philosopher, never a fashion designer."

Perfect partnership

He calls her "the boss". She sometimes calls him "my bridegroom". The partnership of Aldo Pini and Mariuccia Mandelli, the couple behind the Krizia label, is an explosion of two exuberant and forceful personalities who have together put their stamp on international fashion.

Mariuccia Mandelli started alone in 1954 when she gave up teaching to make simple dresses. She picked the name Krizia from a Plato dialogue on woman's vanity, changing the initial Greek C to a K. Since their marriage in 1966, Aldo has applied his administrative skills to her design talent and intuitive understanding of women to turn Krizia into a \$350 million empire that today sells ceramics and scents as well as Krizia Poi (lower priced line), menswear, knitwear and children's wear. These are all regularly paraded in a magnificent private theatre in the 18th-century neo-classic palazzo that is their Milan base. The K Club, a line of luxurious bungalows along a beach in Barbuda, is her latest project, which she plans to franchise to a Japanese resort developer. Early on she devised a



Krizia's couple: Mariuccia Mandelli with Aldo Pini

successful signature theme based on her love of animals, prompting a different motif each season which fashion followers find irresistible. Every animal sweater has become a collector's item.

Next month the new flagship Krizia shop will be opened in London's Sloane Street by Jacqueline Bromage, who already runs London's Yves Saint Laurent and Karl Lagerfeld shops. It will house Krizia's menswear as well as her main collection, accessories and fragrances. Krizia will be at 205 Sloane Street, London SW1.



Win a Cerruti suit fit for a film star

In the film *War of the Roses*, which opens here on Friday, Michael Douglas (above), who plays the warring husband Oliver Rose, co-stars with a Cerruti navy cashmere coat and several impeccably tailored Cerruti suits. If you can pinpoint the date when Nino Cerruti's grandfather founded the family textile mill in Biella, Italy — it appears on some Cerruti labels for men and women — you can win a Cerruti man's suit from Selfridges worth up to £500. Was it 1880, 1881 or 1890?

Write the date on a postcard with your name and address and send it to Liz Smith, Fashion Editor, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN, to arrive not later than Monday, March 12. The sender of the first correct answer pulled out of the bag will win the suit, a bottle of Cerruti Eau de Toilette for men, and a pair of tickets to see the film. Five runners-up will each win a bottle of Cerruti Eau de Toilette for men (worth £22.50), and a pair of film tickets. The tickets can be used only at the Odeon, Leicester Square, London, between March 19 and March 23.

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THEATRE

Jeremy Kingston

LONDON

SUNDAY IN THE PARK with GEORGE LORRAINE: Long-anticipated London premiere of Sonheim's 1984 musical inspired by Seamus's painting of a million dots: Philip Quast as George, Maria Friedman as Dot. National Theatre (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (01-226 2262). Tube: Waterloo. Now previewing. Opens March 15, 7pm. This week Mon-Sat 7.30pm; (from March 17) Wed and Sat mats 2.15pm. Previews 27-28. From March 15: Even 8.30-9.20, Wed mats 2.15-2.45, Sat mats 2.15-2.45.

JEFFREY BERNARD IS UNWELL: Tom Court takes over from Peter O'Toole as the drunk-and-about town columnist, locked overnight in his "local". A great show if you're into the company of drunks. Apollo Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (01-437 2683). Tube: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Fri 8pm, Sat 8.30pm, Sat mat 6.30pm, Sat 8.30pm, Sat mat 6.30pm.

BENT: Powerful performance by Ian McKellen as a doomed homosexual in a Nazi camp; the word-only love scene with Michael Cashman is unmatched for conveying triumph within torment. Garrick Theatre, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (01-378 8107). Tube: Leicester Square. From tonight: Mon-Sat 8.10.30pm, mat Sat 4.40.30pm, 8.30pm, 8.50pm.

HANDOVER SQUARE: Excellent version by Cuth and Thrust of Patrick Hamilton's gripping picture of a man's obsession with a treacherous traitor; notably inventive details chart his journey to murder. Lyric Theatre, King Street, Hammer-smith, W6 (01-741 2511). Tube: Hammer-smith. From tonight: Sat 7.45-8.45pm, mat Wed 2.30-4.30pm and Sat 4.40-6.40pm, 8.30pm, 8.50pm.

NEW ANATOMIES: Revival of early Timberlake Wertenbaker play on the life of Isabella Eberhart, Victorian explorer and transatlantic mail carrier. In repertory with *The Dancers*, a Dutch Jacobean revival and a strained modern mid-West drama. Men in the Moon Theatre, 382 King's Road, SW3 (01-361 2876). Tube: Sloane Square. From tonight: Mon-Sat 8pm, Sun 7pm. Previews tonight, 8.30pm. Opens tomorrow, 8.30pm. Tues-Sun 8.30pm, 8.50pm.

MY NAME, SHALL I TELL YOU MY NAME: New Theatre from County Mayo with Christina Reid's play about an old Protestant soldier and the granddaughter who grows away from him. Young Vic Theatre, 88 The Cut, SE1 (01-828 8533). Tube: Waterloo. Previews from tonight, 8pm. Opens Fri, 7pm. From Mon-Sat 8pm, mat Sat 5pm, Sat 8.30pm.

VALENTINO: Award-winning Sharnley Beesley's company combine with Birmingham Rep to give a stylish physical account of the rise and fall of the fashion icon. Half Moon Theatre, 213 Mile End Road, E1 (01-790 4000). Tube: Stepney Green. Opens tomorrow, 7.30-9.30pm, Wed-Sat 7.30-9.30pm, mat Wed 2.30-4.30pm, Fri-Sat 2.50-4.50pm. Until March 17.

LONG RUNNERS: Aspects of Love: Prince of Wales Theatre (01-433 5972). ... *Cats*: New London Theatre (01-405 0072). ... *Les Liaisons*: Desperately Ambitious Theatre (01-836 6111). ... *My Girl*: Adelphi Theatre (01-240 7813). ... *Les Liaisons*: Palace Theatre (01-434 0909). ... *Miss Saigon*: Theatre Royal, Drury Lane (01-379 4444). ... *The Merchant of Venice*: St Martin's Theatre (01-636 1443). ... *The Merchant of Venice*: Her Majesty's Theatre (01-636 2244). ... *Run For Your Wife*: Whitehall Theatre (01-867 1119). ... *Starlight Express*: Apollo Theatre (01-828 8666).

In his own preferred image

The set for Terry Eagleton's play *Saint Oscar*, previewing from tomorrow at Hampstead Theatre, is dominated by a life-size statue (see our picture, right) of arrow-pierced St Sebastian suspended above the stage. This was, for several reasons, Oscar Wilde's favourite image and at times of stress he identified himself with it. The stresses of Wilde's life are the subject of Eagleton's play which the Irish touring company Field Day are bringing to London for a four-week run after their highly successful tour on both sides of the border last autumn. The piece, very much a play of ideas rather than a narrative, is being tightened-up a little for its London premiere. Founded 10 years ago by Stephen Rea (right, as Wilde), and Brian Friel, the company was last seen over here in Friel's *Translations*, at the National Theatre last year. Eagleton is Lecturer in Critical Theory at Oxford University and this is his first play. Trevor Griffiths directs — the first time he has directed a play that is not his own — and the cast includes Eileen Pollock as Wilde's Nationalist mother and Peter Hanly as the petulant Lord Alfred Douglas. The music is by Philip Chevron (of the Pogues) and Neil Martin. Hampstead Theatre, Swiss Cottage, NW3 (01-722 9301). Previews tomorrow and Thursday, 8pm. Opens Friday, 7.30pm. From Mon-Sat 8pm, mat Sat 4pm. Previews 26. From Mon 25, Tues-Fri evenings and Sat mat 27, Sat evening 28.



Jeremy Kingston

OUTSIDE LONDON

BELFAST: *Oleanna*. New Northern version of Ibsen's drama of personal responsibility and burning orphanages; still set in Norway but with Ulster talk. Lyric Theatre, Ridgeway Street (0223 381811). Opens tonight Sat 8pm. From Mon-Sat 8pm, 9.25pm. Until March 24.

BIRMINGHAM: *Plaza*. New revival for Terence Rattigan's 1942 study of wartime hopes, fears and courage, set in an hotel near a bomber site. Regency, Broad Street (021 235 4455). Previews from Fri 7.30pm. Opens Mar 13. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, 8.40-9.10pm, 9.10pm. Mat Sat 2.30-4.30pm, 8.30pm.

CAMBRIDGE: *Abend Person Singular*. Alan Ayckbourn directs his 17-year-old Christmas play, a classic mix of farce and tragedy. En route for the West End. Arts 3, St Edward's Passage (0223 362000). Mon-Sat 8pm, mat Sat 4pm. 27-28, mat 2.50. Ends Sat.

CARDIFF: *Henry IV*. Richard Harris, Sarah Miles, Ian Hogg, Harold Innocent, directed by David Troughton in the First. Cardiff, beginning a tour before a West End run. New (0222 364844). Opens Mar 13. Tues-Sat 7.30pm, 27-28. Mat Sat 2.30-4.30pm, 8.30pm, 8.50pm. Until Mar 17.

LIVERPOOL: *Love at a Loss*. First revival since 1700 of Catherine Trotter's comedy, said to be witty and so daring that its first production was closed after three performances. Everyman, Hope Street (051 708 4776). Previews tonight, 8pm. Opens tomorrow, 8pm. From Tues-Sat 8pm. Preview 21. From tomorrow, 22-25. Until March 31.

MANCHESTER: *Young Anne*. Music theatre version of Anne Frank's diaries includes material cut by her editors; hard to imagine how this will be staged, but you never can tell. Lyric, St Peter's Square (061 236 7110). Preview Fri 7.30pm. Opens Sat 7.30pm. From Mon-Thurs 7.30pm, Fri and Sat 8pm. Mat Sat 2.30pm and Mar 24, 3pm, 2.30-5.50pm. Until March 31.

PERTH: *Madness*. Scottish premiere for Brian Friel's 1988 examination, through the story of O'Neill, Earl of Tyrone under Elizabeth I, of how history can be tailored to create a national mythology. Perth Theatre, 185 High Street (0753 21031). Opens Fri 7.30pm. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mat Sat 2.45pm, 2.50pm, 3.50pm, 4.50pm. Until Mar 24.

SOUTHAMPTON: *Strife, Marriage and Death*. The antics of a group of students at a college of journalism; said to be "carefree, angry and clumsy", with Roger Lloyd Pack as the college porter. A co-production with TVS and Tyne-Tees; six-part television series follows. Hedfield, University Road (0703 671771). Previews from Thurs 7.30pm. Opens March 13, 7.30pm. From Mon-Thurs 7.30pm, Fri and Sat 8pm, mat Mar 31, 4pm, 2.30-4.30pm, 8.30pm, 8.50pm.

YORK: *Les Liaisons*. Paul Kershaw's touring production of "adults only" comedy about mass strippers who take a girl's advice on how to improve their act. York, St Leonard's Place (0904 623568). Opens Sat night. Mon-Thurs 7.30pm, Fri and Sat 8pm, mat Wed 2.30pm and Sat 4pm, 2.40-4.50pm.

TELEVISION TOP 10

National top 10 programmes in the week ending 28 February 1990

1. *EastEnders* (Thurs/Sun) 20.7m

2. *Neighbours* (Wed) 12.7m

3. *Neighbours* (Wed) 12.7m

4. *Neighbours* (Wed) 12.7m

5. *Neighbours* (Wed) 12.7m

6. *Neighbours* (Wed) 12.7m

7. *Neighbours* (Wed) 12.7m

8. *Neighbours* (Wed) 12.7m

9. *Neighbours* (Wed) 12.7m

10. *Neighbours* (Wed) 12.7m

CABARET

LONDON

ASTORIA, Charing Cross Road, WC2

(01-434 8662). 7.15pm, 8.15pm.

Live act on Tuesday night

Check out the music and acts

including Nick Powell, Michael Richmond

Improvisation from Sandi Toksvig, Lee

Simpson and Neil Muller.

Compiled by Karl Lloyd

is films for inclusion should be

sent at least 10 days before

publication to Tony Patrick, Pre-

view, The Times, 1 Pennington

Street, London E9 6XN

CINEMA GUIDE

RED ROSE, 129 Seven Sisters Road, N7 (01-263 7265). Doors 8.30pm; Show 9.30pm; 25 (25 concs). Frit Ivor Dembo (comp); Mark Thomas, extended stand-up set; John Molloy, "angry young actor"; Linda Smith from Sheffield; Time Out award-winner James Macbride; Sam Mark Lerner (comp); otherwise as Fri.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S WEEK (information: 01-451 0254). Nearly stand-up comedy, each night composed by Jo Brand; big night on Friday.

WILDEMAN, Green Library Centre, High Rd, Wileman Green, NW10 (01-451 0294). Show 8.30pm; 23.50. Thurs: Australian Judy Pooze; Brenda Gil Hilly; Michelle Reed.

OLD WHITE HORSE, Brickton Road, SW2 (01-487 3440). Doors 8pm; Show 9.30pm; 23.50. Fri: Stand-up Jenny Eccles and Michelle Reed; The Frank Chickens, known for their Karaoke TV show.

HACKNEY EMPLOYEES, 291 Mare Street, E8 (01-485 2424). Doors 8pm; Show 9pm; 25. Sat: Hattie Hayridge; Linda Smith; Judy Pooze; Frank Chickens; and token man Eddie Izzard.

WOOD GREEN TV CENTRE, Station Road, N22 (01-487 3440). Doors 8.30pm; Show 9pm; 23.50. Sat: Jenny Eccles; Jenny Bower; Michelle Reed.

KINGS HEAD, 2 Crouch End Hill, N8 (01-340 1028). Doors 8pm; Show 8.30pm; 23 (25 concs). Sat: Mark Hurd (aka Mark Mawdsley); Frank Skinner. Sat: "Exquisite" Nick Ravall; Ian Kambler; Anthony King; Chris and George; Sean Perchell.

SCREAMING BLUE MURDER, The Leather Bottle, 277 Kingston Road, Merton, SW19 (01-542 7480). Doors 8pm; Shows: Fri 9pm, Sat 8.30pm; 24. Fri: Stand-up Owen O'Neill; Caroline Cooke; and David Lee. Sat: "Cherry" compers Jeff Green, winner of Comedy Store Newcomers Award last year. Sat: Stand-up (extended set); Eddie Izzard (compers).

THE FUNNY FARM, Union Tavern, Camberwell New Road, SE5 (01-778 9412). Doors 8pm; Show 9pm; 23.50 (25.50 concs). Sat: Highly acclaimed visual comic Martin Spon; stand-up: Caroline Cooke; Sean Lock; Sean Hughes; plus open slot.

BRIDGEWAY BEAR TAVERN, High Street, Becontree (information: 084 863366). Doors 7.30pm; Show 8.30pm; 22. Stand-up comedy. Wed: Frank Skinner (compers); Lee Evans; Paul Brophy (with music); The Man with the Beard.

HARE & HOUNDS, High Street, Kings Head (information: 084 863366). Doors 7.30pm; Show 8.30pm; 22. Stand-up comedy. XXXX Cabaret: Frank Skinner (compers); Lee Evans; Paul Brophy and Eddie Izzard.

BRIGHTON THE CAROOLITE, The Carpool, opposite Palace Pier, Madeira Drive (information: 0273 662650). Doors 8pm; Show 9.30pm. Late bar. 23.50 (25 concs). Sat: John Hopley; variety juggler Pierre Holid; stand-up comedian Pat Condon; Simon Gill (compers).

HAIRYWOOD SCREAMING BLUE MURDER, Wood and Crown, 61 High Street, Hampton Wick, Surrey (01-547 3428). Doors 8pm; Show 8.30pm; 23.50 (25 concs). Wed: Irish stand-up Sean Hughes (extended set); supporting act: Michael Hutton; aggressive, noisy: George; Mark Lerner.

LIVERPOOL: KOFF KLUB, Thriller Jackie, Bury St, Liverpool (01-708 6777). Doors 8.30pm; Show 9pm; 23. Wed: Improvisation from American double-act Burns and Nunn; Eddie Izzard; Tim Clark (compers).

MANCHESTER: BUZZ CLUB, Maudslayi Road, Warrington (01-561 257 3769). Doors 8.30pm; Show 9pm; 23 (25 concs). Thurs: Mark Hurd (aka Mark Mawdsley); with musical support.

PETERBOROUGH: THE GASLIGHT, Peterborough Sports & Leisure Centre, Lincoln Road (0733 314378). Doors 8pm; Show 8.30pm; 23.50 (22.50 concs). Sun: Music from Mollie Harnett and Cilla Black; stand-up comedy from Australian Julie Bell.

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's selection of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ♦) on release across the country.

♦ **BLACK RAIN** (18): Michael Douglas pursuing a Japanese gangster. Flashy potboiler from director Ridley Scott. Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2636) Plaza (01-200 0200).

♦ **BLAZE** (15): Paul Newman as politician Earl Long, defiantly in love with a stripper. Colourful American. Cannon Haymarket (01-839 1527) Odeon Kensington (01-802 8644) Odeon Swiss Cottage (01-722 5905) Warner West End (01-439 0791).

♦ **BORN ON THE FOURTH OF JULY** (18): Dynamic anti-Vietnam epic from Oliver Stone, with Tom Cruise excellent as paraplegic Ron Kovic. Cannon Baker Street (01-935 9772) Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2636) Empire (01-200 0200) Gate (01-727 4043) Mileend (01-225 4222) Odeon on the Green (01-226 3520) Whiteleys (01-782 3303).

♦ **CASUALTIES OF WAR** (18): Sean Penn commits Vietnamese atrocities; Michael J. Fox broods. Compensatory thoughtful war film from Brian De Palma. Cannon Oxford Street (01-630 0310).

♦ **DANCING THRU THE DARK** (15): Wim Wenders' thin but boisterous comedy-musical set in a Liverpool dance hall. Cannon Chelsea (01-352 5036) Cannon Panton Street (01-930 0831) Cannon Tottenham Court Road (01-636 5148) Screen on the Strand (01-435 3368) Warner West End (01-439 0791) Whiteleys (01-782 3303).

♦ **DO THE RIGHT THING** (18): Racial tension in Brooklyn; bracing militant entertainment from Spike Lee. Empire (01-437 1234).

♦ **DRIVING MISS DAISY** (U): Jessica Tandy as the prickly Southern lady with a black chauffeur (Morgan Freeman). Accomplished, endearing. Warner West End (01-439 0791).

♦ **A DRY WHITE SEASON** (15): David Southern wakes up to apartheid's horrors. Powerful thriller from Andre Brink's novel. Cannon West End (01-439 4805).

♦ **FAMILY BUSINESS**: Curtis's egg comedy-drama about a family of crooks (Sean Connery, Dustin Hoffman, Matthew Broderick). Odeon Leicester Square (01-930 6111). Notting Hill Corner (01-727 6705). Odeon Kensington (01-802 8644). Odeon Swiss Cottage (01-722 5905).

♦ **FELLOW TRAVELLER** (15): Ron Silver as a terrified blacklisted victim in 1950s England. Stylish. Mile (01-437 0757).

♦ **GLORY** (15): Edward Zwick's impassioned salute to the black Americans who fought in the Civil War; powerful performances. Cannon Chelsea (01-352 5036). Cannon Shaftesbury Avenue (01-636 8881). Whiteleys (01-782 3303).

♦ **HAMLET GOES BUSINESS** (15): Cautious, updated Shakespeare filmed in B-movie style by Finnish Jester Aki Kaurismäki. Everyman (01-435 1525).

♦ **HENRY V** (PG): War-is-hell version from Kenneth Branagh; cinematically drab, variably acted. Cannon Panton Street (01-930 0831). Mileend (01-225 4222).

♦ **HONEY, I SHRUNK THE KIDS** (U): Minuscule children battle through their garden to safety. Engaging special effects romp. Odeon Kensington (01-802 8644). Odeon West End (01-439 0791). Odeon Swiss Cottage (01-722 5905). Odeon Marble Arch (01-723 2011). Cannon Chelsea (01-352 5036). Whiteleys (01-782 3303).

♦ **THE HOUSE OF BERNARDO ALBA** (18): Llorca's play about a widow and her six daughters; fine acting, but tedious cinema. Premiere (01-430 4470).

CINEMA GUIDE

♦ **LAST EXIT TO BROOKLYN** (18): Raw, skilful version of Hubert Selby Jr's tales of Brooklyn's loveless. Cannon Tottenham Court Road (01-636 5148).

♦ **LIFE AND NOTHING BUT** (PG): The emotional aftermath of World War One, sensitively explored by director Barryden Towner. Premiere (01-435 4470).

♦ **LOCK UP** (18): Factory-bait prison drama, with Sylvester Stallone facing the wrath of warden Donald Sutherland. Cannon Oxford Street (01-636 0310).

♦ **MONKEY SHINES** (18): Ugly nonsense about a quadriplegic and a human-gating monkey. Prince Charles (01-437 8181).

♦ **OLIVER AND COMPANY** (U): Oliver Twist revamped and animated. Awkward blend of old Disney values, modern trappings. Warner West End (01-439 0791). Whiteleys (01-782 3303).

♦ **PARENTHOOD** (12): Ron Howard's episodic heart-warmer about family life. Steve Martin heads a sterling cast. Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2636). Cannon Oxford Street (01-636 0310). Plaza (01-200 0200). Whiteleys (01-782 3303).

♦ **SEA OF LOVE** (18): Cop (Al Pacino) and murder suspect (Ellen Barkin) fall in love. Atmospheric, runchy thriller. Cannon Baker Street (01-935 9772). Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2636). Cannon Oxford Street (01-636 0310). Plaza (01-200 0200). Whiteleys (01-782 3303).

♦ **SEX, LIES AND VIDEO TAPE** (18): Steven Soderbergh's deliciously posed study in human deception and sexual frustration. Cannon Piccadilly (01-437 3567).

♦ **SHIRLEY VALENTINE** (18): Pauline Collins as the Liverpool housewife rediscovering romance. Warm-hearted film. Cannon Baker Road (01-370 2636). Empire (01-240 7200). Whiteleys (01-782 3303).

♦ **STEEL MAGNOLIAS** (PG): Female gossip and tears down South. Overly sentimental, though some performers please (Julie Roberts, Olympia Dukakis). Odeon Haymarket (01-636 7687). Odeon Kensington (01-802 8644). Cannon Chelsea (01-352 5036). Whiteleys (01-782 3303).

♦ **TROP BELLE POUR TOI** (18): Gérard Philipe toys between his wife and mistress. Skilful satire on marital mores from Raymond Blier. Odeon Plaza (01-435 2444). Chelsea Cinema (01-351 3742). Lumiere (01-636 0891).

♦ **WHEN HARRY MET SALLY** (15): Romantic comedy with a brittle touch. Mag. Ryan, Billy Crystal. Cannon Piccadilly (01-437 3567). Odeon Kensington (01-802 8644). Whiteleys (01-782 3303). Warner West End (01-439 0791).

♦ **WHEN I FALL IN LOVE** (15): Synthetic life and love of a football champ (Dennis Quaid) and his dutiful wife (Julia Lange). Cannon Shaftesbury Avenue (01-636 8881).

♦ **WINTER PEOPLE** (15): Family backwoods saga of feuding families and secret loves, with Kurt Russell and Kelly McGillis. Cannon Tottenham Court Road (01-636 5148).

♦ **EVERYMAN** (01-435 1525): *Alfie in the City* — Wim Wenders' 1964 odyssey through a bleak European landscape.

♦ **NATIONAL FILM THEATRE** (01-836 3335): *Used Cars*, lively apprentices work from *Back to the Future* director Robert Zemeckis; Alan Rudolph's *Trouble in Mind*; Dan Aykroyd and John Belushi as *The Blues Brothers*; Nordic's eye-deceiving *Thief of Bagdad*.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2119

ACROSS

- 1 Richmal Crompton schoolboy (4,7)
- 9 Embodiment (7)
- 10 Little (5)
- 11 Fined (3)
- 13 Ripped (4)
- 16 Thin coating (4)
- 17 Cast round (6)
- 20 Engrave (4)
- 20 Boy friend (4)
- 21 Philippines PM (6)
- 22 Object word (4)
- 23 Tub (4)
- 25 Placatory concession (3)
- 28 Ribs to hips area (5)
- 29 Venezuela/Columbia river (7)
- 30 Inspiring summons (7,4)

DOWN

- 2 Open sore (5)
- 3 Ticket scalper (4)
- 4 Roman mid-mouth (4)
- 5 Lechery (4)
- 6 Courtousness (7)
- 7 Out of the way (4,5)
- 8 Drake bowls site (8,3)
- 12 Chocolate finger (6)
- 14 Ultimate degree (3)
- 15 Maccabean ghost (6)
- 19 Essential (7)
- 20 Shilling (3)
- 24 Coral reef circle (5)
- 25 Celebrity (4)
- 26 Rolled collar (4)
- 27 Spine plate (4)

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 22

MULLIGANS

(a) The black dog gloom, also a stomach-ache, a grotesque arbitrary Scottish farce: "I have scarce stirred to take exercise for five or six days, no wonder I had the mulligan." (b) An American chief, from the Algonquian language, a great man, occurring in John's Massachusettus Bible, for instance, at Genesis xxxvii, 15, where it answers to the *dale* of the English Bible. Politicians have applied the word to one who sits on a fence, with his wing on one side and his wing on the other.

GUMBLE-FOISTED

(a) Having the mulligan, mulligan, from gumble, downcast countenance, "proper mulligan" as they say in Derbyshire, Scott: "Ye are gumble-foisted 'un."

MUGWUMP

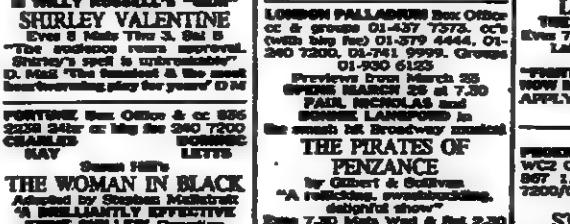
(a) A rural usurer in Ireland, from the Old Celtic *Amhug*, medieval Latin *Amhug*, meaning change: "The bank in Ireland is often little more than a glorified gumbie man."

GUMBLE-FOISTED

(a) Having the mulligan, mulligan, from gumble, downcast countenance, "proper mulligan" as they say in Derbyshire, Scott: "Ye are gumble-foisted 'un."

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent



This position is from the game Portisch (Black) — Monaco 1988. In this position Black played 1... Qa6? and a draw was soon agreed. What did he miss? Solution in tomorrow's Times.

Solution to yesterday's position: 1... Bxe2 and White resigned as 2... Bxe2 Qa6 wins a piece.

ENTERTAINMENTS

OPERA & BALLET

COLLEGE OF MUSIC:

TELEVISION & RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear
and Gillian MaxeyAn eye to
the main
chance

Peter Waymark

● Writers of television shows must be running out of names. Stephen Crane, the hero (or anti-hero) of *Crane* (ITV, 9.00pm), is also the American author of *The Red Badge of Courage*, while older viewers may recall a series called *Crane* with Patrick Allen. The graver charge is that the writers (various) of *Crane* are also running out of ideas. But if the themes of this 13-parter — our old friends money, power and sex — are familiar, then that seems to be precisely the point.



On case: Clive Owen as self-made City slicker Stephen Crane (ITV, 9.00pm)

Crane has been carefully designed to draw on the audience's sense of the familiar. *Crane* City crossed with *Howard's Way* with a touch of *Andrew Newman*. The enjoyment comes not in being surprised but in having expectations fulfilled. The reliable Benjamin Whitrow plays the owner of a sports car company, a nice guy but hopelessly unbusinesslike, who within minutes of the opening credits watches the factory go up in flames. He also has a cluster of personal problems, which will help to keep up the interest should the financial machinations begin to pall. The fire is the cue for the entry of young, dynamic, thrusting, self-made Crane (Clive Owen), a City slicker whose prescription for recovery is to sack the management and workforce, sell the site for a supermarket and start up somewhere else. This paragon of the Thatcherite enterprise culture is soon in conflict with the company patriarch, although he is not above ditching his girlfriend for the patriarch's younger daughter. Bedrooms feature as strongly as boardrooms as this first episode offers a Cook's tour of the dramatic personnel. Leslie Phillips as a smoothie financier in the mould of *Bergerac*'s Charlie Hungerford provides the show with welcome humour.

● If *Crane* promises to be formula stuff, the appeal of Debbie Horsfield's gritty comedy-drama *Making Out* (BBC1, 9.30pm) is that it shuns the clichés and presents its characters (mainly female) as individuals. Back for a second series, the boisterous sextet from the Lancashire electronics factory show no sign of outstaying their welcome. *Making Out* follows the excellent practice of such other workplace dramas as *Casualty* and *The Bill* in juggling several stories in short, pithy scenes and working up a lively pace. It also has much to say, wittily and undidically, about the lot of the working woman.

6.00 *Casualty*
6.30 *Breakfast News* with Nicholas Wright and Penny Wainman. Includes regional news headlines, business reports, sports details, regional news, weather and travel information. Paul Cullen reviews the morning newspapers. **8.55** Regional news and weather followed by *Open Air*. Viewers comment on yesterday's television.

9.20 *Kilroy*. Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a discussion on a topical subject. **10.00** News and weather followed by *Going for Gold* (r). **10.25** *Children's BBC*. Introduced by Simon Parkin, begins with *Playdays*, presented by Dave Benson.

11.00 News and weather followed by *Open Air*. Gloria Hunniford and Jayne Irving follow up viewers' comments.

12.00 News and weather followed by *Daytime Live*. Includes a ship-to-ship report on how the *Devil* LHM-sponsored crew members are doing on their cross-Channel voyage aboard the *Lord Nelson*. **12.55** Regional news and weather.

1.00 *One O'Clock News* with Philip Hayton. **1.30** *Neighbours*. Jane cannot believe her good fortune; and Malcolm hands her a heavy responsibility. (Coastal)

1.50 *Going for Gold*. Henry Kelly with another round of the European general knowledge quiz. **2.15** *Film: The Amazing Dobermann* (1976) starring Fred Astaire, James Franciscus and Barbara Eden. An undercover agent calls on a reformed criminal with five highly-trained Dobermanns to help him infiltrate an extortion ring. Directed by Byron Chudow. (Coastal)

3.00 *Bodger and Badger* written by and starring Andy Cunningham (r). **4.00** *Hockey* with (r) 4.15 *Jeopardy*. Comic Booth with part two of E. S. White's *Crusades*. **4.25** *New York Bear Show*. **4.35** *The Really Wild Show*. Wildlife series presented by Terry Nutkins, Nicola Davies and Chris Packham. (Coastal)

5.00 *Newsround* 5.10 *Grange Hill*. Episode 19 of the 20-part serial and Maitland has a short-lived period of being treated as a hero. Includes a special guest appearance by Linford Christie. (Coastal)

5.35 *Neighbours* (r). (Coastal) **6.00** *Six O'Clock News* with Peter Sissons and Anna Ford. **6.30** *Regional News*. **7.00** *Crane*. **7.25** *Crane*. **7.50** *Crane*. **8.25** *Crane*. **8.55** *Crane*. **9.20** *Crane*. **9.50** *Crane*. **10.20** *Crane*. **10.50** *Crane*. **11.20** *Crane*. **11.50** *Crane*. **12.20** *Crane*. **12.50** *Crane*. **1.20** *Crane*. **1.50** *Crane*. **2.20** *Crane*. **2.50** *Crane*. **3.20** *Crane*. **3.50** *Crane*. **4.20** *Crane*. **4.50** *Crane*. **5.20** *Crane*. **5.50** *Crane*. **6.20** *Crane*. **6.50** *Crane*. **7.20** *Crane*. **7.50** *Crane*. **8.20** *Crane*. **8.50** *Crane*. **9.20** *Crane*. **9.50** *Crane*. **10.20** *Crane*. **10.50** *Crane*. **11.20** *Crane*. **11.50** *Crane*. **12.20** *Crane*. **12.50** *Crane*. **1.20** *Crane*. **1.50** *Crane*. **2.20** *Crane*. **2.50** *Crane*. **3.20** *Crane*. **3.50** *Crane*. **4.20** *Crane*. **4.50** *Crane*. **5.20** *Crane*. **5.50** *Crane*. **6.20** *Crane*. **6.50** *Crane*. **7.20** 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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Passenger traffic rises 50% at City Airport

John Mowlem, the contractor, has announced that the number of business passengers using its City Airport in London's Docklands in January and February was 50 per cent higher than a year ago. Last month Mowlem announced that it was making a £33 million provision in its 1989 accounts to offset the airport's development costs and trading losses.

According to Mr William Charnock, the airport managing director, 36,745 passengers used the airport in January and February of this year compared to 24,656.

Ernest Green climbs 16% Serco slips to £3.61m

Pre-tax profits at Ernest Green and Partners Holdings, the US structural and civil engineering consultancy, climbed 16 per cent to £1.52 million in the six months to end-December, on turnover up 18 per cent to £6.87 million. Earnings per share rose 13 per cent to 12.3p. The interim dividend rose 22 per cent to 2.75p.

Serco Group, the facilities and project management company, reported £3.61 million pre-tax profits in the year to end-December, against £3.71 million, on turnover ahead 24 per cent to £58.6 million. Eps slip from 27p to 25.6p. The final dividend is 6.5p, making 9.5p, compared with 5p for the previous eight-month period.

Cabra acquires Rohan

Rohan Group, the Dublin-based development and construction company, has been sold by Mountleigh, the property company being restructured by the American businessman Mr Nelson Peltz and Mr Peter May.

Rohan has been bought for £40 million by Cabra Estates, whose chief executive is Mr John Duggan. Mr Duggan sold Rohan to Mountleigh two years ago as part of Phoenix Properties and Finance, which Mountleigh bought for £61 million. Cabra is also acquiring a 44 per cent stake in the Texas residential developer Hallmark.

Cresta runs up to £6.66m Coffee back on agenda

Pre-tax profits at Cresta Holdings, the Isle of Man mini-conglomerate restructuring to concentrate on nursing homes, more than doubled from £0.31 million to £6.66 million in the year to end-December. Earnings climb from 12p to 12.2p, despite double the shares in issue. The final is 1.2p (1p), making 1.8p, up 20 per cent.

The executive committee of the International Coffee Organization meets in London today and tomorrow to review the situation. The deal to quotas halved prices, sending coffee as low as \$555 per tonne early last month — their lowest for more than 14 years. Bad weather in Brazil has helped fuel a price recovery to more than \$700.

Ownership action

A company controlled by Mr David Rowland, the property entrepreneur with a 48.5 per cent interest in Inoco, has been taken to court by the New Zealand Securities Commission. Inoco owns 37 per cent of the US-listed Gulf Resources and Chemicals, which is poised to become the biggest shareholder of City Realities, the New Zealand property company. But the deal risks being thrown into disarray by a high court hearing on Monday, of an action by the NZSC over the ownership of Zelas Enterprises, City Realities' majority shareholder. Zelas is capitalized at only NZ\$100 (£35), yet it bought its 70.42 per cent stake for NZ\$56 million last year.

Persimmon's northern light shines on

Those who expected the southern slump in house buying activity to have "rippled" its way north will have been left scratching their heads after the impressive results from the York-based housebuilder Persimmon.

Driven by an average selling price per house 23 per cent higher than a year ago, pre-tax profits rose 10 per cent to £32.6 million in the year to December. Margins, too, were increased, up from 24.8 per cent in 1988 to 25.2 per cent in 1989. With a 4.5p final dividend, the company's total distribution to shareholders rose 30 per cent.

The Persimmon results are the clearest sign yet that the housing market in the North of England is a very different animal from its counterpart in the South.

In the North, where prices have never required buyers to club together, the ending of joint mortgage relief came and went unnoticed. Since then, the market motored comfortably on, driven by the economic recovery in the region.

Mr Duncan Davidson, Persimmon chairman, would claim to be a national housebuilder, but the fact remains that of the 1,796 homes sold by the company last year, more than 1,200 were sold north of Birmingham.

The future appears to have the same bias — with 7,200 of the company's 9,730 sites currently with planning con-

sent in the North.

The time is not yet right for Mr Davidson to change that bias. While an over-heated and over-emotional southern market waits for prices to fall to a level that bears at least some sort of realistic relation to earnings, prices in the North are, at worst, likely to track earnings growth.

With gearing now comfortably below 30 per cent, the company is well placed to shift the emphasis at the right time.

Pre-tax profits of about £30 million have been faintly pencilled in for 1990. With earnings per share of 25.2p, that puts the shares on a prospective p/e of 6. A must for the recovery portfolio.

Thorntons

Why can one retailer make a success of selling boxes of chocolates at £5 a throw when another has difficulty selling boxes of tights at £1.50? If both companies have similar-sized shops in similar locations and both produce sales are equally badly affected by a hot summer, the answer would seem to be differences in management and policy.

While Sock Shop over-expanded, increased its debt and moved into North America, Thorntons, under the chairmanship of Mr John Thornton, grandson of the founder, has used franchisees, has gearing of only 8 per cent and moved on to the Continent.



John Thornton: delivering the goodies at Thorntons

So, while Sock Shop is in the hands of administrators, Thorntons is still growing, although beginning to feel the pinch affecting all retailers. Pre-tax profits for the 28 weeks to January 6 were up 4.6

per cent at £7.2 million on the 32-week period last time. Sales rose 9.3 per cent to £43.2 million. Comparing the two 28-week periods, sales were up 18 per cent. Earnings per share rose 4.6 per cent to 7.25p and

the dividend is up 34.1 per cent to 1.1p.

The group estimates that the hot summer cost it 2 per cent of sales, or £300,000 in lost profits. Most of the rise in sales came from the 30 Thorntons shops opened in the first half, 15 of them franchises. The existing outlets saw volumes drop by about 4 per cent after stripping out inflation.

However, Mr Thornton says St Valentine's Day was a great success and there were good volume gains in existing shops last month. The group has slowed down its openings programme to benefit from better opportunities for acquiring prime pitches and it has an eye on Sock Shop sites.

Analysts expect full-year profits between £9.8 million and £11 million, putting the shares, down 1p at 129p, on a rating of between 11.6 and 14 times earnings. A long-term investment.

Ransomes

Ransomes was affected by the long, dry summer in Europe, but none the less finished last year with profits up 9 per cent at £14.4 million before tax, and fully diluted earnings per share a tenth higher at 17p. It also crowned a series of US acquisitions with the \$150 million purchase of Cushman, making Ransomes the largest maker of "professional" lawnmowers in the world.

The growth in Ransomes' earnings per share was some-

what slower than in than in the rest of the late Eighties. But the five-year average remains more than 20 per cent compound — pretty good by UK engineering standards.

The reasons for this strong performance lie partly with its US acquisition programme and partly with its decision to quit the farm machinery business, which liberated space at its 260-acre site at Ipswich. Property income and gains from the development of surplus land more than doubled from £2.4 million to £6 million last year.

But Ransomes' progress has also been underpinned by the rapid expansion in leisure-related demand. Although 60 per cent of its sales in the UK go to local authorities for the maintenance of playing fields and road verges, in the US the main buyers are golf courses. American golf courses replace their mowers every five years, and Ransomes believes 600 courses will be created between now and the mid-Nineties. It foresees no slackening in the 10 per cent annual growth in sales volume from the development of new golf courses before the century ends.

With analysts expecting profits of £24 million and earnings of 21p, the shares at 170p are on a prospective p/e of 8. For a leisure stock that could be classed as green, that is a snip — and Ransomes is striving to encourage investors to view in that light.

BP fleet risk on open market

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

BP is moving the insurance of its world tanker fleet on to the world market after 30 years of the fleet being insured entirely by BP's own in-house insurance company, Tanker Insurance.

BP said that the tanker fleet was regarded by the insurance industry as a "high-quality" risk and it was felt that more effective coverage could be available on the open market.

The insurance broker Heath Martens Horner has been instructed by BP to handle the

placing. The underwriting is expected to be split between the London market and some overseas markets.

The vessels to be insured include the 20 tankers of BP Shipping and six coastal tankers of BP Oil UK. The combined value of the fleet is about £250 million.

BP's Tanker Insurance will continue to handle insurance for other company assets such as oil rigs, production platforms and pipelines, with the company policy of having all

its third-party risk handled by the world insurance market and Tanker Insurance placing most of its reinsurance in the open market.

Traditionally about half BP's assets have been insured in-house with London and other markets handling the remainder of the business.

It is also intended that Tanker Insurance will participate in the insurance following the market lead, but only up to a maximum of 25 per cent.

Amex risks challenge to Shearson buy-back plan

From James Bone, New York

There was speculation yesterday that American Express could face lawsuits from Shearson Lehman Hutton Inc shareholders after announcing that it would buy all the remaining publicly-held common stock in its \$350 million stock swap.

Amex announced on Sunday that it had abandoned talks with third parties, including Primerica Corp, about possible changes in Shearson's ownership, and would buy back the approximately 30 per cent of Shearson common stock in public hands. The move ended months of manoeuvring by Amex to shore up Shearson's finances to stave off a possible credit downgrade.

Amex's move marked a sudden reversal of its policy to cut its 68 per cent stake in Shearson to under 50 per cent, so that it could take the securities firm's assets and liabilities off its balance sheet. Amex will buy out the

minority stake in Shearson by exchanging 0.426 of its common shares for each outstanding common share in Shearson. The proposal reflects Friday's closing prices — \$29.375 for Amex and \$12.50 for Shearson — and offers no premium for Shearson shares.

Analysts predicted that Shearson shareholders might respond with legal action. Amex first sold Shearson shares to the public at \$34 each in March 1987.

Mr Jim Hanbury, of Wertheim Schroder, said that Shearson shareholders might find it difficult to sue Amex. He said: "The reason that American Express is doing this is to shore up Shearson."

Nippon Life Insurance Co of Japan will retain the 13 per cent stake it holds in Shearson through an issue of voting convertible preferred stock.

Amex, which last week said that it was pumping a further \$750 million into Shearson to bring its cash infusion over the last several months to \$1 billion, billed the stock-swap as a sign of its continuing confidence in Shearson.

Mr James D Robinson, chairman of American Express, said: "These actions affirm American Express' long-term commitment to Shearson Lehman Hutton and its customers, and to working with its management team."

Wall Street analysts speculated, however, that the buy-back would make it easier for Amex eventually to spin off parts of Shearson.

Amex will buy out the

Two British stockbrokers have been allowed to join the Tokyo Stock Exchange after a wait of half a decade.

Barclays de Zoete Wedd and James Capel have been told they will be granted membership of the world's biggest stock market in April, ending years of behind-the-scenes finger-wagging by Mrs Thatcher and the British Government over an issue that had become another example of Japan's corporate chubbiness.

Joining the London Stock Exchange is a matter of joining The Securities Association, the regulatory body, and paying entrance and annual fees of up to £50,000 each. BZW and James Capel will have to pay up £1.34 billion (£5.46 million) each to obtain

and maintain their TSE seats. Credit Lyonnais Securities, the stockbroking arm of the French bank, was also given the go-ahead by the TSE.

Mr Minoru Nagatoka, president of the TSE, said: "We've made the decision so that there will be no further international friction."

Mr Michael Connors, general manager of BZW in Tokyo, said: "Joining will cost us about ¥400 million a year in running costs... which we can comfortably cover with the extra commission we will get."

Mr Roger Atkins, chairman of James Capel Pacific in Tokyo, said: "Our Japanese business had reached a point where we needed a TSE seat to push ahead."

Lilley buying Hatfield

Lilley, the Glasgow-based construction group, has emerged as the bidder for Hatfield Estates, which last week said that it was in takeover talks and whose shares jumped by 40p to 225p.

Lilley is offering 230p a share — with share and loan note alternatives — valuing Hatfield at £17.5 million, and has received undertakings to accept in respect of 87.4 per cent of Hatfield. Hatfield's

controlling shareholders are to accept the loan note and share alternatives, leaving Lilley with a maximum potential cash outlay of £2.5 million.

Hatfield reported sales of £16.4 million and pre-tax profits of £2.6 million in the year to August 31. The bid terms equate to 9.9 times historic earnings.

Lilley's shares lost 1p at 57p; Hatfield's rose by 11p to 236p.

COMPANY BRIEFS

CAPITA GROUP (Fin)
Pre-tax: £1.30m (£0.74m)
EPS: 10.39p (6.65p)
Div: 1.7p, mktg 2.5p

BUNFORD HOLDINGS (Fin)
Pre-tax: £2.29m (£1.27m)
EPS: 1.1p (1.8p)
Div: 0.35p, mktg 0.85p

SUMMIT (Fin)
Pre-tax: £0.59m (£0.53m)
EPS: 7.7p (6.9p)
Div: 8.7p mktg 5.2p (4.5p)

UNIDARE (Fin) Ir
Pre-tax: £4.12m (£5.8m)
EPS: 22.85p (38.10p)
Div: 10.05p mktg 13.6p

WESCO INVEST (Fin)
Pre-tax: Loss £0.23m
EPS: 5.10p (0.7p)
Div: Nil (1p)

Last year's total dividend was 1.5p. The current year has started well with a number of acquisition opportunities under review.

Last year's total dividend was 0.5p. Net asset value a share increased to 56.4p (49.5p). Group turnover climbed to £20.1m (£12.7m).

Net asset value a share slipped from 258p to 245p basic and from 213p to 208p fully diluted. Gross revenue fell from £1.5m to £1.49m.

Last year's total dividend was 12.7p. Sales climbed to £96.5m (£75.5m). There was an extraordinary loss of £1.24m due to the Finglas closure.

Last year's pre-tax profit was £70,000. Turnover increased to £5.55m (£1.9m). Interest debt was £180,000, against £87,000 credit.

US firm invests in Northern Ireland

By Robert Redwell, Belfast

Fruit of the Loom, a US clothing group, is to build two factories near Londonderry, creating 500 jobs over the next five years in the biggest American investment in Northern Ireland for a decade.

Construction of the first factory, a 320,000 sq ft spinning plant at Campsie will begin within the next 12 weeks, for a production start-up in mid-1991 and the employment of its full complement of 250 by 1992.

By then, construction of the second factory, on a site still to be decided but in the Derry City area, will be under way. This will manufacture sweatshirts for the European market, begun recruitment in 1993 and be fully manned, with 250 employees, by 1995.

Fruit of the Loom, which claims a 40 per cent share of the US market for its products which also include underwear, sports kit and socks, already employs 25,000 people at 40 sites, mostly in the USA.

But it is one of the biggest industrial employers in the Irish Republic, with 1,700 workers making T-shirts and sweatshirts at factories in County Donegal.

Fruit of the Loom has traded under its brand name since 1851.

Wyndham in Cardiff deal

By Our City Staff

Wyndham Group, Mr Brian Brownhill's property, motor and financial services group, is set to buy Churchill House, a freehold property in Cardiff, for £10.1 million from Magnet House Properties.

Churchill House is situated on a prime location in Cardiff city centre.

The property provides 80,000 sq ft of office accommodation, fully let. Churchill House has a reversionary rental value of about £985,000.

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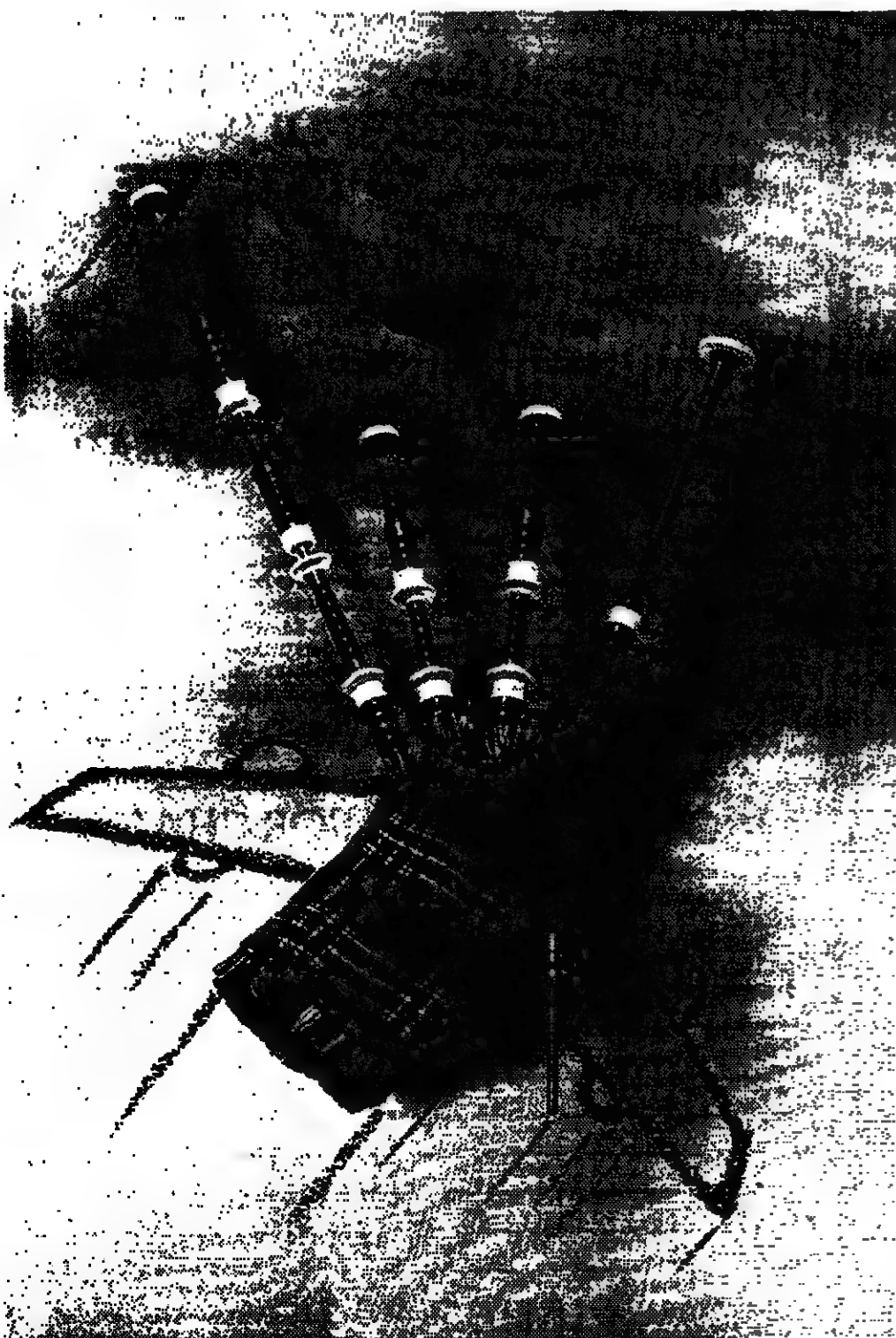
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Where business takes off



Coal jobs to be lost over contracts says Haslam

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

New contracts to supply the about-to-be-privatized power generators and the effects of three successive mild winters will lead to redundancies in the industry and a revaluation of its deep mine assets, Sir Robert Haslam, the chairman of British Coal, admitted yesterday.

He told the Coal Industry Society that had coal prices been allowed to rise at the same rate as inflation, the industry would have made "Hanson-class" profits.

However, Sir Robert said the new contracts with National Power and PowerGen — under which British Coal will supply 5 million tonnes a year

less than previously to the CEGB — are increasing the pressures on the industry.

He said: "Some realignment of our productive capacity will be required. While the details cannot be finally identified until further discussions about coal flows to the individual power stations have been concluded, we will do what needs to be done as quickly and as painlessly as possible."

"I am quite convinced this is what everyone in our industry prefers so that we can concentrate on the business of building for the future."

"There has been some scepticism cast upon the inherent value of the contracts, recog-

nizing they cover only three years. Obviously, we would have preferred a longer-term deal, but I feel that when we come to focus on terms for the rest of the decade, the competitive position may well have shifted further in British Coal's favour — and we shall be able to build on these interim arrangements."

Sir Robert said that the British Coal policy of keeping price rises to a minimum had cost it dearly. It has given the power industry a price concession of £1.3 billion by keeping rises below the inflation rate from 1986 and for the length of the new contracts.

He said the coal industry

welcomed the decision by Mr John Wakeham, the Energy Secretary, to restructure the British Coal balance sheet. This, he added, would allow it to deal with past losses and liabilities — because of large-scale redundancies in past years British Coal now has nine pensioners for every one employee — and to revalue its assets.

Sir Robert said these would have to be revalued to reflect the recent enormous changes in the market for fossil fuels. "The rewards the industry is likely to earn in the marketplace of the future will not justify a value of £4 billion for deep-mined assets."

Mirman 'to stay at Sock Shop'

By Gillian Bowditch

Miss Sophie Mirman, founder of Sock Shop, said yesterday that neither she nor her husband and partner, Mr Richard Ross, would step down or hand over the day-to-day running of Sock Shop to others.

Speculation that they would was "totally unfounded", Miss Mirman said.

Announcing the departure of Mr Peter Moss, the corporate finance director, she said: "Richard and I are working together as a team. We built up Sock Shop together and whatever mistakes have been made and whatever we've gone through, we've been through it together. We will continue as a team."

Miss Mirman said that since the group appointed administrators 10 days ago, the role of corporate finance director had disappeared.

Sock Shop does not intend to replace Mr Moss directly, although it does intend to strengthen the board and is expected to appoint a finance director.

She said that the company was still talking about refinancing to its original potential investors and to some new ones. However, analysts are concerned at the time it is taking to arrange refinancing.

Miss Mirman said that, although one or two shops may close, there will not be a massive rationalization. She said: "Most of our shops are trading profitably."

She acknowledged the possibility of renegotiating rents, saying: "I think that, in general, retail rents went through the roof, and landlords are beginning to realize that if they don't bring them down, the high street will be empty."

Sock Shop, whose shares are suspended at 34p, has changed its year-end from February to May.

Hoesch buys Gwent stake

Hoesch, the West German steelmaker, announced in Bonn it had taken an 80 per cent stake in Gwent Steel, one of the biggest of Britain's dwindling force of independent steel stockholders. The value of the deal was not disclosed.

Gwent Steel's annual turnover is about £30 million.

The company is based at Newport, South Wales. Hoesch is believed to have been among a number of recent suitors anxious to arrange a deal with Gwent.

COMMENT David Brewerton

ICI comes out on the side of the bulls

Said quickly, the decision by Imperial Chemical Industries to take powers to buy in up to 10 per cent of its shares does not seem to amount to much. Many companies have taken similar powers, and some have used them quite extensively. The move by ICI, however, is on a different scale from most, simply because to buy in a tenth of the company's equity would cost around £750 million. That amount of new money going into the equity market as a whole would bring a sparkle to the jaded eyes of the market makers: that amount into ICI alone would send the price through the roof.

ICI has no plans to mount a dawn raid on itself, but there are a number of compelling reasons why the power to buy its own shares is unlikely to lie dormant in the company armoury. The first is that, while the price can be expressed as cheap or dear according to fundamental analysis of earnings and dividends, the final arbitration takes place between buyers and sellers. By bringing itself into the market as buyer, ICI ought to be able to outgun potential sellers. At the very least, this should stabilize the price: if the power is used with anything approaching aggression, it should send the price higher.

The group has a good deal of headroom before buying in becomes uneconomic. On the basis of 15 per cent interest rates, it can buy at an historic price/earnings ratio up to 10.3 before earnings begin to be diluted rather than enhanced. Thus the company would be able to bid up to beyond 1350p before the game ceased to be worth the candle. Compared with the current share price of 1089p, that is music to the ears of ICI shareholders. The move will also have a beneficial effect on sentiment in the US, where the decision to buy in means either great confidence on the part of the management or the scent of a takeover bid.

Back in the realms of fundamental analysis, ICI shares are lowly rated against the market and prospectively yielding half a point or more above the 6 per cent at which it is usually safe to buy them. The tension in the market may not be finally resolved for several months, but ICI has struck a blow for the bulls.

Action on the dollar

Central bank co-operation in the currency markets is alive and well. Yesterday, practically every central bank one had ever heard of, and a few one had not, entered the market to try and beat the dollar back into its box. They had a fair degree of success, pushing the currency back below DM1.70, which is usually regarded as the bottom end of the original "Louvre"

range agreed in the context of the Louvre accord in February, 1987. But, by the close, the US currency had recovered some of its losses, ending less than a pfennig down on its previous close at DM1.7045.

In spite of the show of central bank solidarity, it is not clear that the interests of all parties are pointing in the same direction. Manuel Johnson, the deputy chairman of the US Federal Reserve Board, was quoted on Friday as saying that the firmness in the dollar had provided a bit more breathing space in the fight against inflation. But the Bundesbank is unwilling to see a depreciation of the mark for the same reason — that it would be inflationary in Germany. It would also, the Bundesbank explains, be inappropriate for a country with the world's largest trade surplus.

If the world's monetary mandarins want to set new target ranges or arrange new offensives in currency markets they have a convenient opportunity at the meeting of Working Party 3 of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development — the forum for balance of payments discussions — now under way in the suburbs of Tokyo. More likely, however, any substantive decisions will be deferred until the ministerial Group of Seven meeting either in April or before the International Monetary Fund meeting at the beginning of May.

Thorny questions

Thorn EMI is sticking rigidly to its refusal to comment on reports from Los Angeles that it is about to buy Mr David Geffen's Geffen Records for a massive \$700 million. Such information, it warns, is price-sensitive and not for general circulation.

Battered Thorn shareholders might be forgiven for thinking of horses and stable doors, given the £1-plus slump in the company's share price since the start of last month, when the rumours started to circulate. The shares lost another 4p to 687p yesterday as *The Wall Street Journal* became the latest to pick up the tale. The reason for the market's fear is obvious: \$700 million is a hefty sum to pay for a business in the notoriously fickle music industry.

Mr Geffen is one of the sharpest operators in the US music industry, even if most of the artists he is associated with have something of a 1970s ring to them. He, of course, has no private shareholders to worry about or Stock Exchange regulations to limit any announcements he makes.

But it should not be beyond the abilities of the finest minds at Thorn to draft some kind of announcement to put its shareholders' minds at rest without giving away too many negotiating points.

Kelt sells oil stake for £4.4m

Kelt Energy has sold its 12.5 per cent stake in a North Sea oil licence block — which includes a 2.1 per cent share in the Balmoral Field — for £4.4 million. Arco bought 9.2 per cent for £3.3 million and Coal Petroleum 3.3 per cent for £1.1 million.

The sale will help Kelt to pay some of the £170 million in short-term debt it has with American Express Bank. But there has been speculation that it will soon announce a big financial restructuring package with medium and long-term lending replacing its Arco loans.

It borrowed £220 million from Arco to finance its takeover of Carless Capel and paid back £130 million on schedule by selling the Carless refining and marketing operations. Since then, however, it has increased its debt, mainly by having to meet its share of the development costs of the BP Wyth Farm onshore field in Dorset.

It now has to meet the remaining debt payments between April and June and its management has already started talks on a refinancing package.

Kelt also announced yesterday that it has started appraisal drilling of its oil discovery on an onshore site near Goodwood in West Sussex.

Find for Elf

Elf Aquitaine Syria has made its first oil find in Syria, in the second well drilled on the Deir Es Zor permit in eastern Syria, its parent company, France's Elf Aquitaine, said.

Jourdan on the bid trail

ADRIAN BROOKS



Dreaming of a bright pre-Christmas climate: Keith Whitten, chairman of Thomas Jourdan

Thomas Jourdan, whose consumer product interests range from Corby tins to presses to kitchen and bedroom furniture, is on the look out for acquisitions because it believes difficulties in the market place could present business opportunities, Colin Campbell writes.

Jourdan has appointed Leonard Brothers, the merchant

bank, to pursue opportunities, though it concedes after a 1989 profits drop that this year could be another difficult one for consumer confidence.

"The real test for us is around September in front of the Christmas season by which time we hope consumers are feeling warm and happy," Mr Keith Whitten, the chairman, says. Pre-tax profits in

the year ended December 31 slipped from £2.87 million to £2.11 million on sales of £28.5 million (£30.2 million). Mr Whitten says profits were affected by weak markets for consumer goods.

The dividend is maintained at 5.6p, with a final of 4.1p, payable May 8. Net earnings for the year were 8.47p a share compared with 12.4p.

Banks protest over Bill side-effects

By Angela Mackay

The British Bankers' Association is protesting against the side effects of The Criminal Justice (International Co-operation) Bill, which today enters the Committee stage in the Commons.

The legislation is aimed at defeating drug money-laundering in Britain, but the additional protocol attached to the Bill brings fiscal offences — primarily tax-related and not generally the subject of criminal prosecutions — within the scope of the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters.

The association said the inclusion of fiscal offences within the Bill has been justified as a means of enabling the Inland Revenue to obtain evidence from other countries which may be used in British criminal prosecutions.

According to Mr David Elvidge, association chairman and the taxation director of Barclays Bank, the inclusion of fiscal offences achieves nothing for Britain unless other

countries adopt the additional protocol which would give reciprocity to Britain.

He said: "The UK is inviting any other country which alleges a fiscal offence against one of its citizens to obtain confidential information, for example details of bank accounts, information in accountants' records and commercial information generally, in circumstances where the alleged offence may not be an offence under UK law and where the British authorities

themselves have no power to obtain such information."

The association said the Bill should be amended to make it clear it will not include fiscal offences. "If someone is robbing a bank or selling cocaine, the law is fairly clear about the illegality no matter which country is concerned. But with fiscal offences the nuances of the law change from country to country and the UK would be least to breach banker/client confidentiality without reciprocity."

Stands packed to the brim

If you are hoping for a juicy corporate invite to what looks like being one of the sporting events of the year, forget it. Ian McLauchlan Associates, which holds the sole rights to corporate hospitality tickets at Murrayfield for the March 17 England-Scotland game, says all its allocation of 1,000 seats went months ago. "There's always strong demand for the Calcutta Cup, however the teams are doing," says McLauchlan. Otherwise you might try being friendly to the Scottish financial mafia, always well provided with tickets — most big institutions up there have their own debenture seats and are saved the indignity of going through corporate hospitality brokers.

Cruel spoof

There are certain letters so embarrassing that you regret ever opening them. One such arrived, addressed to a former editor of this diary now on another newspaper, telling her she had been shortlisted for a job in public relations and giving details of her interview. Resisting the temptation to call around various mutual friends in the Press and gossip on her misfortune, this diary did the decent thing and made a quiet phone call. But the whole thing is in fact a cruel spoof, dreamt up by the publishers of the forthcoming *Return of the Complete Revenge Kit*, due out just in time for April 1. The first book in the series, some five years ago, featured a number of juvenile

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Govett leaves the board

Bill Govett is stepping down from the board of the investment group that bears his name, Berkeley Govett, to head related investment trusts, including the new Hungarian Investment Company. His departure from the board marks the end of a long stint on the board of John Govett, founded by his father, which

hoaxes including indiscreet letters from certain private clinics and caused no little controversy. This time round, we are promised, the jokes have mellowed a little. Be warned.

Linking up

An old partnership will be revived when Martin Gordon joins Panmure Gordon Investment Management from



My knowledge of Tagalog is, I admit, limited. But I think that if pressing need ever struck I would probably look for a better interpreter than that used by the local council of San Jose in California when it wanted to put up a 30ft banner across the main street to welcome a visiting party from the Philippines. The banner should have read *tulay po kayo* — "Welcome Filipinos." The council came up with the more menacing *tulay po kayo* — "Circumcise Filipinos."

Mountain challenge

A growing feature of corporate life over the past few years has been the sight of overweight and under-fit executives doing difficult, strenuous or dangerous things in the cause of team spirit and corporate achievement. Now comes the Challenging Trophy, oxymoronically described as "this gruelling but fun event," where teams spend three days running up and down some of the least hospitable hills this country has to offer. Already in training for the 1990 competition, the first to be held in Britain and set for the end of May in the Trossachs, are two teams apiece from Samuel Monaghan and Bankers Trust — the latter's squad is all-female. Also booked in for prolonged sick leave come June 3 are various rising stars from Allied Dunbar, Legal & General, Standard Life and the London Traded Options Market. The whole thing was dreamt up by former Belgian rally driver Michel Malschaert and involves canoeing, mountain biking, climbing, initiative tests and others too tiring even to enumerate.

Somewhere out there — doubtless atop a huge pile of post which inexplicably fails to arrive over the years — there is a note informing Roger Felber's Parkfield Group of the minor detail that the mighty Norwich Union owns almost 8 per cent of it. The letter went out from the Norwich at the end of January and disappeared without trace — the first Parkfield learnt of it officially was more than a month later.

Martin Waller

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No.	Company	Share Price
1	Sheffield Steel	100.00
2	Southdown Spinning	100.00
3	Cheney Milling	100.00
4	TNT	100.00
5	Hutchinson Wharfedale	100.00
6	Creosote	100.00
7	Wolterhouse Rink	100.00
8	Bedford (A)	100.00
9	Leigh	100.00
10	Church	100.00
11	Widmore	100.00
12	Grange	100.00
13	Hughes Metals	100.00
14	Allied Irish	100.00
15	GKN (an)	100.00
16	Satell (an)	100.00
17	Jordan (Thomas)	100.00
18	Electra Power	100.00
19	Hawthorn Cement	100.00
20	Easton	100.00
21	Hewitt (J)	100.00
22	South Pacific	100.00
23	Hayes Publishing	100.00
24	S & U Stores	100.00
25	Alphacore	100.00
26	Asst New Z	100.00
27	Rank Org (an)	100.00
28	Vision	100.00
29	Macarby	100.00
30	Hartley & Hanson	100.00
31	Third Mile	100.00
32	Tottenham Hooper	100.00
33	Beaumont	100.00
34	Lodder (T)	100.00
35	VPI Co	100.00
36	Providence	100.00
37	Nat Aust Bk	100.00
38	Park Foods	100.00
39	Capita	100.00
40	No-South	100.00
41	Chatham (N)	100.00
42	Wentley	100.00
43	Ranger	100.00
44	Elco	100.00
45	Industrie E-K	100.00

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Weekly Dividend						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

BRITISH FUNDS	
High	Low

SHORTS (Under Five Years)	
High	Low

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS	
High	Low

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS	
High	Low

UNDATED	
High	Low

INDEX-LINKED	
High	Low

BANKS, DISCOUNT HP	
High	Low

ELECTRICALS	
High	Low

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Modest falls

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began February 26. Dealings end March 9. Contango day March 12. Settlement day March 19.
\$Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (an) denotes Alpha Stocks. (NOLINES: PAGE 26)

BREWERIES	
Company	Price
Adnams	100.00
Beck's	100.00
Carlsberg	100.00
Guinness	100.00
Heineken	100.00
King	100.00
Mecklenburg	100.00
Reck	100.00
Tottenham	100.00
Watney	100.00

BUILDING, ROADS	
Company	Price
Bechtel	100.00
Bois	100.00
Bray	100.00
Chubb	100.00
Concor	100.00
Day	100.00
Ellis	100.00
Farrell	100.00
Heath	100.00
James	100.00

FINANCE, LAND	
Company	Price
Abn-Amro	100.00
Bank of America	100.00
Barclays	100.00
Bank of China	100.00
Bank of India	100.00
Bank of Japan	100.00
Bank of Korea	100.00
Bank of London	100.00
Bank of Montreal	100.00
Bank of New York	100.00

FINANCIAL TRUSTS	
Company	Price
Abn-Amro	100.00
Bank of America	100.00
Barclays	100.00
Bank of China	100.00
Bank of India	100.00
Bank of Japan	100.00
Bank of Korea	100.00
Bank of London	100.00
Bank of Montreal	100.00
Bank of New York	100.00

FOODS	
Company	Price
Abn-Amro	100.00
Bank of America	100.00
Barclays	100.00
Bank of China	100.00
Bank of India	100.00
Bank of Japan	100.00
Bank of Korea	100.00
Bank of London	100.00
Bank of Montreal	100.00
Bank of New York	100.00

L-R	
Company	Price
Abn-Amro	100.00
Bank of America	100.00
Barclays	100.00
Bank of China	100.00
Bank of India	100.00
Bank of Japan	100.00
Bank of Korea	100.00
Bank of London	100.00
Bank of Montreal	100.00
Bank of New York	100.00

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS	
Company	Price
Abn-Amro	100.00
Bank of America	100.00
Barclays	100.00
Bank of China	100.00
Bank of India	100.00
Bank of Japan	100.00
Bank of Korea	100.00
Bank of London	100.00
Bank of Montreal	100.00
Bank of New York	100.00

DRAPERY, STORES	
Company	Price
Abn-Amro	100.00
Bank of America	100.00
Barclays	100.00
Bank of China	100.00
Bank of India	100.00
Bank of Japan	100.00
Bank of Korea	100.00
Bank of London	100.00
Bank of Montreal	100.00
Bank of New York	100.00

HOTELS, CATERERS	
Company	Price
Abn-Amro	100.00
Bank of America	100.00
Barclays	100.00
Bank of China	100.00
Bank of India	100.00
Bank of Japan	100.00
Bank of Korea	100.00
Bank of London	100.00
Bank of Montreal	100.00
Bank of New York	100.00

INDUSTRIALS A-D	
Company	Price
Abn-Amro	100.00
Bank of America	100.00
Barclays	100.00
Bank of China	100.00
Bank of India	100.00
Bank of Japan	100.00
Bank of Korea	100.00
Bank of London	100.00
Bank of Montreal	100.00
Bank of New York	100.00

S-Z	
Company	Price
Abn-Amro	100.00
Bank of America	100.00
Barclays	100.00
Bank of China	100.00
Bank of India	100.00
Bank of Japan	100.00
Bank of Korea	100.00
Bank of London	100.00
Bank of Montreal	100.00
Bank of New York	100.00

INSURANCE	
Company	Price
Abn-Amro	100.00
Bank of America	100.00
Barclays	100.00
Bank of China	100.00
Bank of India	100.00
Bank of Japan	100.00
Bank of Korea	100.00
Bank of London	100.00
Bank of Montreal	100.00
Bank of New York	100.00

LEISURE	
Company	Price
Abn-Amro	100.00
Bank of America	100.00
Barclays	100.00
Bank of China	100.00
Bank of India	100.00
Bank of Japan	100.00
Bank of Korea	100.00
Bank of London	100.00
Bank of Montreal	100.00
Bank of New York	100.00

MINING	
Company	Price
Abn-Amro	100.00
Bank of America	100.00
Barclays	100.00
Bank of China	100.00
Bank of India	100.00
Bank of Japan	100.00
Bank of Korea	100.00
Bank of London	100.00
Bank of Montreal	100.00
Bank of New York	100.00

SHOES, LEATHER	
Company	Price
Abn-Amro	100.00
Bank of America	100.00
Barclays	100.00
Bank of China	100.00
Bank of India	100.00
Bank of Japan	100.00
Bank of Korea	100.00
Bank of London	100.00
Bank of Montreal	100.00
Bank of New York	100.00

TEXTILES	
Company	Price
Abn-Amro	100.00
Bank of America	100.00
Barclays	100.00
Bank of China	100.00
Bank of India	100.00
Bank of Japan	100.00
Bank of Korea	100.00
Bank of London	100.00
Bank of Montreal	100.00
Bank of New York	100.00

MOTOR, AIRCRAFT	
Company	Price
Abn-Amro	100.00
Bank of America	100.00
Barclays	100.00
Bank of China	100.00
Bank of India	100.00
Bank of Japan	100.00
Bank of Korea	100.00
Bank of London	100.00
Bank of Montreal	100.00
Bank of New York	100.00

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS	
Company	Price
Abn-Amro	100.00
Bank of America	100.00
Barclays	100.00
Bank of China	100.00
Bank of India	100.00
Bank of Japan	100.00
Bank of Korea	100.00
Bank of London	100.00
Bank of Montreal	100.00
Bank of New York	100.00

OIL, GAS	
Company	Price
Abn-Amro	100.00
Bank of America	100.00
Barclays	100.00
Bank of China	100.00
Bank of India	100.00
Bank of Japan	100.00
Bank of Korea	100.00
Bank of London	100.00
Bank of Montreal	100.00
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MICHAEL POWELL

Exporting Britain's business expertise

Britain has more management consultants than almost any country in the world and numbers continue to grow, in good times and bad. Contrary to pessimistic expectations, last year was a buoyant one for the profession: the Management Consultancies' Association says fees earned in Britain increased from £350 million to £577 million. But the rise in overseas earnings was proportionately much greater — from £33 million to £76 million. By far the biggest export markets are in Europe, where earnings rose from £20 million to £46 million.

The Bank of England regards management consultancy as an increasingly important source of invisible export earnings, offsetting losses from the securities business as London's financial supremacy fades. The bank expects that consultancies will soon recruit qualified people from the contracting securities houses. Their arrival should ease staff shortages and enhance consultants' profits by limiting the salaries spiral.

Yet despite recent expansion, David Miller, the association's president, views the economic climate as "more uncertain than in several years". He says: "High interest rates, reduced retail spending and sluggish manufacturing output have created a cautious mood. Few expect the

The UK's management consultancy industry is booming following an increase in business from international clients, David Rudnick reports

recent growth in the domestic market to continue at the same high levels through the early 1990s.

But the Government's determination to cut public-sector spending is bringing a bonanza for management consultants. Last year central government spent at least £113 million on consultancy, and it is increasing its annual spending by more than 30 per cent a year, according to the journal *Management Consultancy*.

The market for public-sector consultancy services, according to estimates, could be worth a third of all the fees earned by British consultancies. However, Whitehall's use of private-sector consultants will probably be more rigorously scrutinized now that a report has been published revealing that this spending in the Health and Social Security departments has leapt in recent years by 1,000 per cent.

An analysis of the source of consultancy fees earned in Britain during 1989 shows that information technology (£177 million) led

the field, followed by finance and administration (£148 million). These two sectors accounted for 56 per cent of all fees. IT these days offers self-generating business, given the dynamic state of computer-based technology and companies' needs to keep abreast of the latest developments.

In the association's recent survey about the concerns of chief executives, one in five mentioned IT as a key issue for the 1990s. Twice as many cited "people availability", and nearly a third chose the single European market. But 84 per cent put human resource management issues among their top three concerns. This is reflected in the expanding role of human resource specialists in consultancies.

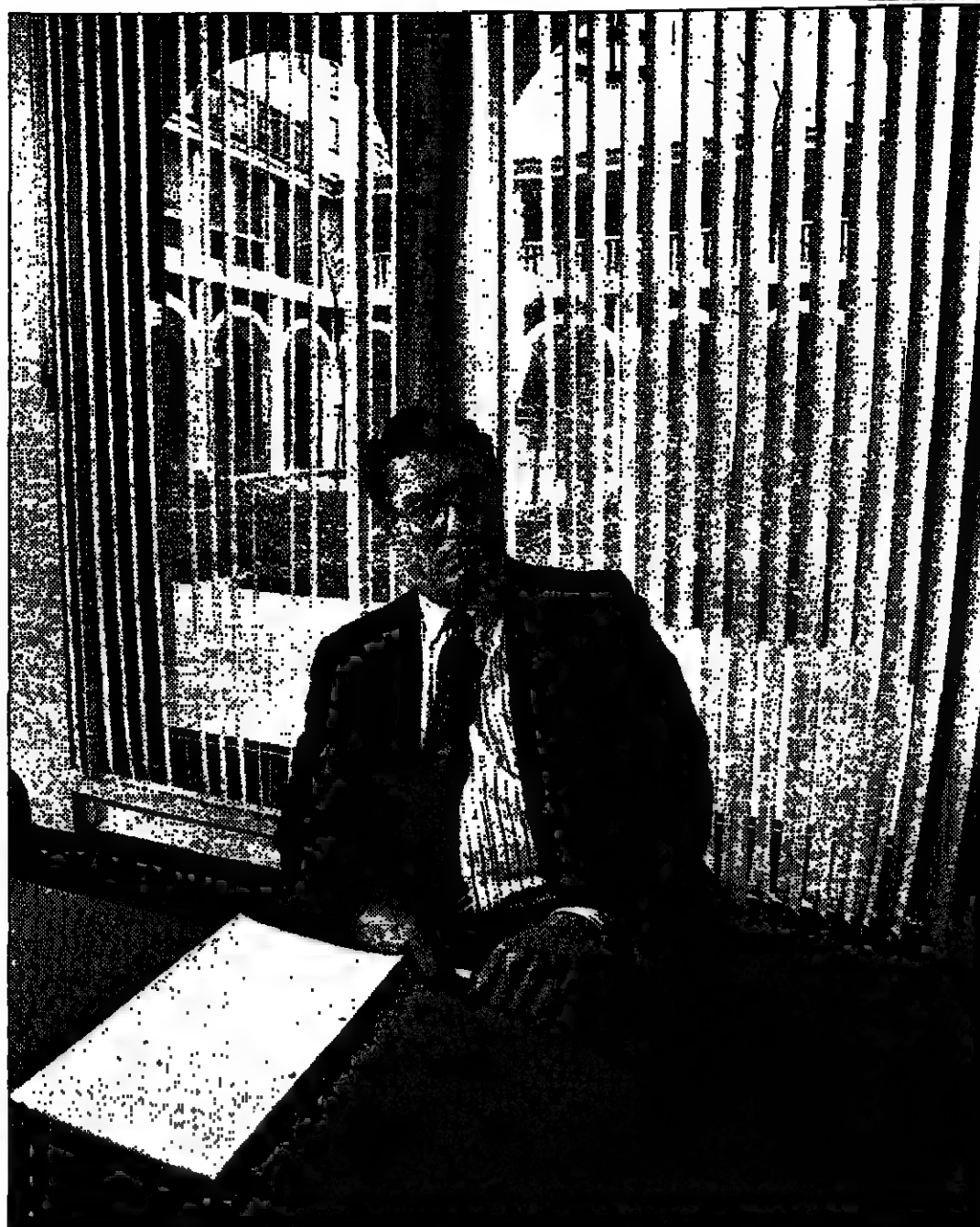
Competition is strong and the main consultancies are jockeying more than ever for a market share. The association estimates that Coopers & Lybrand, being formed by the imminent merger of Coopers & Lybrand and Deloitte Haskins & Sells, will be the largest consultancy practice in Britain, fol-

lowed by PA, Peat Marwick McLintock, Arthur Andersen and Price Waterhouse.

The increasingly international scale of management consultancy is making the big businesses bigger to enable them to service international clients. But a factor limiting growth in size is the tendency of clients to avoid using the same consultancy as a competitor. Further growth in corporate scale is therefore likely to come from mergers and acquisitions.

Management consultants have traditionally been feared by managements as company doctors whose presence on the premises a client would do anything to conceal. Today, far less shame attaches to bringing in professional expertise to advise on corporate problems. Far from denoting ill health, willingness to hire outside consultants might well indicate managerial determination to streamline operations, cut costs and improve profitability.

Despite the growing internationalism of management consultancy, foreign competition is causing little anxiety. "National European firms like Roland Berger in Germany, or Berenschot in The Netherlands, exert little competitive influence," Mr Miller says. "But a number of medium-sized European firms are approaching UK firms to create European groupings, and these could spell more competition."



Cautious: David Miller, president of the Management Consultancies' Association, says the future is uncertain

Managers are increasingly turning to information technology to give their companies a competitive edge in the market.

The potential of IT is so great that the Government has announced that it plans to provide a third of the £3 million required for an initiative to boost the competitive use of IT by British companies.

The initiative, called Genial, is the first of its kind in Europe. It is aimed at helping the private and public sectors respond, to the challenges of the European single market.

The increasing use of IT to sharpen the competitive edge of businesses and organizations can,

Information technology is being used to equip Britain for entry into the single European market

Technology lends a sharper edge

according to George Cox, managing director of Butler Cox, a leading management consultancy, he put down to a number of factors:

• The continued development of the technology itself, with increased power, new capability, and vastly changed economics.

• The continued move of computing into everyday life.

• Changing telecommunications, which provide an infrastructure

that makes global trading a possibility and will make electronic data interchange a norm.

• The growth of the installed systems base, meaning that much of the data needed for competitive-edge applications is already being captured and processed.

• The increasing number of line managers who understand what the technology might do.

• The increasing use of informa-

tion technology at the "sharp end" of the business.

But using these new systems to meet needs is often beyond the scope of in-house systems managers because they do not have the resources to keep pace with the advances in IT.

A common problem is that the in-house systems manager is still regarded as a senior specialist, not a senior member of management.

He is not brought into strategic thinking early enough.

This partly explains why IT remains the largest business of management consultants. The turnover for the 30 members of the Management Consultancies' Association alone was worth £177 million.

And there is a high penalty for getting the system's infrastructure wrong. Andrew Davies, an IT

director with Touche Ross, has been asked to resolve 10 problem projects worth at least £125 million in the past three years.

"All but one of the projects were of such a scale that their problems had an impact upon the business that was much greater than the project cost," he says.

Mr Cox believes the future hangs in the balance for the systems manager. "On the

opportunity side, there are three powerful weights — the greater demand for systems, the greater importance of systems, and the greater facilities with which these systems can be delivered," he says.

But there is the threat that organizations will fail to recognize the potential of systems, and, therefore, the role of the systems manager. Mr Cox believes that the opportunities will outweigh the threats. "Many corporations may conclude that no strong, overall approach to information systems is necessary," he says. "It is a view that may not survive for long, but perhaps long enough to see off many corporate systems chiefs."

Michael Hatfield



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The Management Consultancies Association was formed in 1956. Its primary purpose is to ensure that management consulting work is carried out to exacting standards by requiring adherence to a code of professional practice. The Association also prides itself upon its stringent conditions for membership which relate to the stability, experience and qualifications of its professional workforce. These are verified annually.

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Three routes to success

A profitable market trend provides the incentive for Britain's best to take up the challenge of 1992, David Rudnick writes

Management consultants are well placed to benefit from the challenges facing business, as 1992 and the single European market loom ever nearer. Figures from the Management Consultancies' Association already show an accelerating trend in fees earned in the European Community — up 55 per cent in 1988, then more than doubling again in 1989 to a total of £36 million.

West Germany (£7.2 million) is the largest single market, despite also being one of the toughest to crack. Belgium is next best earner (£6 million), because of its central location and the attraction of Brussels for companies wishing to be based at the Community's nerve centre.

Information technology (£11.3 million) and manufacturing management and technology (£7.2 million) bring in the biggest money.

The association has adopted as its theme for 1990 the "practical implication of managing the European dimension". David Miller, the association's president, sees three broad categories of consultancy bus-

inesses emerging across Europe during the next 10 years.

The first type, he believes, will be characterized by size. These businesses will be large accountancy-based firms providing a wide range of services in virtually every Community country.

The second will be based on specialization. Companies will be smaller in size, but determined to spread their specialized skills — in providing logistical advice, for example — over as wide an area as possible.

Mr Miller sees the third type of consultancy as the stay-at-home, nationally based firm, enormously strong in its own country and uninterested in expansion across Community frontiers.

All Britain's big firms are gearing up for the European future. Peat Marwick McLintock (part of Klynveld Peat Marwick Goerdeler — KPMG) has recruited Lord Cockfield, a former vice-president of the EC Commission, and a prime mover in the 1992 campaign, as a special adviser.

KPMG reckons it has already earned £3 million from Community-



Lord Cockfield: experienced recruit based assignments, including location studies for American and Japanese clients — "gateway" commissions for which British firms are particularly suited to help non-Community companies establish themselves inside the Community tariff wall.

Another British firm, Stoy Hayward, has set up an Action Centre Europe in the United States to advise businessmen on their strategy for post-1992 Europe.

The firm publishes in Britain a snappy little booklet, "1992 and

Beyond", which offers news and views on everything concerning the single market from tax advice to a glossary of Euro-jargon.

Keeping abreast of Community rules and regulations and advising on their likely impact on clients' interests is proving to be a particularly useful service, given the flood of legislation issuing from the Commission.

When it comes to broader questions of strategy the questions that arise are: ● What sort of growth would best suit the client — merger, acquisition, franchising, licensing or joint venture? ● Should he expand rapidly and go for broke with all the attendant risks, or build up his market presence more cautiously?

Finding suitable people for the jobs involved in resolving these questions is emerging as one of the chief problems facing British industry as it confronts 1992.

Britain's problem is that as a low-salary country — bottom of the Community league except for Greece and Portugal — it finds it hard to attract top-grade managers, while her most enterprising business graduates are eyeing greener pastures across the Channel.

"Continental Europeans are much further down the track towards integration than the UK," says John Woodger, group marketing director of MSL. "For them, 1992 is the end date, while for us it's only the starting date."



Confident: "The UK has the most sophisticated management consultancy," Brian O'Rourke says

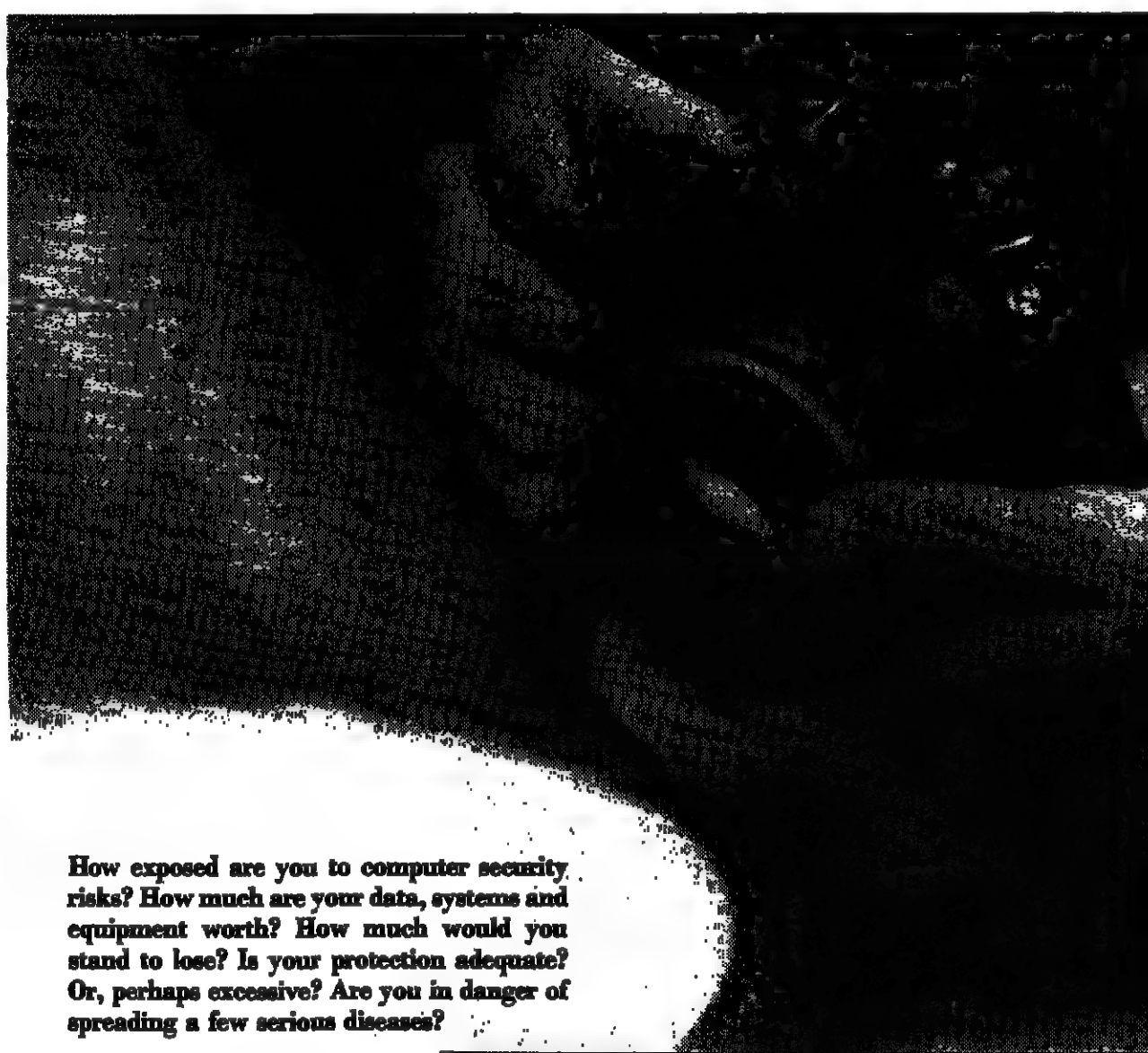
Challenge of Europe

Brian O'Rourke, executive director of the Management Consultancies' Association, takes a cautiously optimistic view of the prospects facing the profession. He does not expect the high rewards of the expanding Eighties to continue. But he says: "Management consultancy thrives in periods of change. This is, and will continue to be, such a period, particularly in eastern Europe."

But it is in western Europe, gearing up for 1992, that management consultants face their biggest challenge. Mr O'Rourke is aware of, but not immediately worried by, the consultancy

skills shortage that is causing apprehension in some quarters. "The UK," he believes, "has a more sophisticated management consultancy sector than anywhere in Europe, so we have the basis for influencing the direction in which the profession develops in Europe. If we don't, we shall have only ourselves to blame."

As proof of commitment, Mr O'Rourke points out that the president of the MCA, David Miller, is based in Brussels as managing director of Coopers & Lybrand Europe. And next year the MCA will be assuming the presidency of the European Federation of Management Consultants' Associations.



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NHS costings are under review — but some things, like the urgency of a patient being rushed into casualty, never change

Radical changes that are now sweeping through the National Health Service have turned the health care sector into one of the most competitive markets for management consultants, as well as an increasingly lucrative one.

Following the leak of a highly critical report by the Efficiency Unit, Whitehall's internal watchdog on the Department of Health and Social Security, the department disclosed that it spent £3.5 million on management consultants. But this does not tell the whole story.

The Management Consultancies' Association will announce figures soon which show that the fees earned by its 30 members for health care totalled £12 million last year — twice the amount of the previous year. Not all management consultancy firms are members of the association.

The discrepancy is largely answered by the fact that health authorities and individual hospitals are spending increasing sums on management consultants to help them prepare for the changes in health care proposed in the Government White Paper, "Working for Patients".

Gerald Johnson, head of Ernst & Young's health care group strategic management team, described competition among consultants as "fierce". It is easy to understand why. One of the most important proposals of the White Paper is that responsibility for buying and delivering health care will be separated from 1991.

Purchasers, usually a dis-

Business is looking up on NHS

Management consultants are in demand to prepare for changes

strict health authority, will be responsible for evaluating and meeting the needs of a defined population. They will buy from a number of providers, the hospitals and general practitioners.

The division in roles between purchaser and provider sets up the classic dynamics of the marketplace, says Johnson, bringing about the need for business plans, strategic planning, resource management, and greater use of information technology.

Top management consultants began employing health care specialists, such as doctors and clinicians, health economists and pharmacologists, about three years ago to supplement the work of other specialists.

Before he joined Touche Ross as an associate responsible for health care, Dr Sabri Chahla was a specialist in community health, co-ordinated a number of DHSS sponsored projects, and acted

as adviser to the Health Commission of the EC.

"Management consultants can assist and advise on option appraisals by helping authorities identify the needs of their areas, especially as they will now have to include capital costs in the appraisals," he says.

One area where management consultant skills are clearly paying their way is with VAT. Skilled young auditors who know their way through the arcane regulations of the Customs and Excise and can earn authorities substantial refunds.

Ernst & Young has 30 auditors who will "crawl over the piles of invoices in warehouses and secure refunds of up to a million pounds," says Gerald Johnson. It may be boring work, but for Ernst & Young it is not only represents about 15 per cent of its business but, more importantly, it gives it a foothold with authorities when tenders are on offer for more stimulating contracts.

Michael Hatfield

Business planning also figures highly in consultant work. Michael Delaney of Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte says that many health authorities have undertaken valuable work in analysing the need for services, referral patterns, trends in medical technology

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East meets West at management level

Eastern Europe is looking to the West for the management skills it lacks, David Rudnick reports

There is an unprecedented need for high-level management expertise throughout Eastern Europe to carry through the profound economic reforms of *perestroika* - restructuring. Demand for Western management consultancy services is booming and is likely to continue for the foreseeable future.

Western consultants are performing several roles. They are helping to reshape East European management systems, restrain and upgrade local managers, transfer Western management know-how, develop links with Western businesses and assist the emerging private sector.

But while the need may be unlimited, effective demand for these consultancy services is constrained by foreign exchange shortages, by unclear local knowledge of what consultants do and how they operate, and by uncertainty about important macro-economic decisions.

Where World Bank projects have started or are in preparation, they generally involve using and promoting local consultants.

Viewed from the West, the

demand for consultancy services comes from companies seeking advice on how to break into the newly liberated East European markets and establish joint ventures there.

Ernst & Young, the former Ernst & Whinney partnership which merged with Arthur Young, went into partnership itself last year with a Soviet management consultancy, Vnesheconsult, to produce an offspring called Vnesheaudit, the first Soviet-Western accounting firm.

Alexandre Roubtsov, director-general of Vnesheconsult, is convinced that creating a network of management consultancies across the Soviet Union is crucial to the success of Mikhail Gorbachev's reform plans.

He says: "There is a particular need for people who grasp the workings of the Soviet economy as well as Western business techniques." Ernst & Young has invested time and effort in developing the kind of business service network desired by Mr Roubtsov, both in the Soviet Union and elsewhere in Eastern Europe.

It has focused on East-West joint ventures, again setting an example itself with the establishment of Ernst &



Wheels of change: the West is being increasingly sought by Eastern Europe to provide management advice for *perestroika*

Young Bonitas, the first Hungarian-Western accounting and consulting firm.

Last year this firm acted as midwife at the birth of Hungary's first management-employee buyout, the purchase by a Western-backed syn-

dicate of a State-owned stationery company, Apisz. Last year Coopers Deloitte was also active in Hungary, joining forces with Coopers & Lybrand in West Germany and Austria to set up a Hungarian firm in Budapest.

This is a joint venture with Hungary's largest commercial bank, providing audit services and tax and consultancy advice.

Last summer KPMG Pest Marwick entered the busy Hungarian scene, opening an

office in Budapest. Vicky Pryce, chief economist at KPMG, says the firm is negotiating with the Hungarians, helping to find joint-venture partners and raise private funds in the West. In January, at a meeting

organized jointly by the Adam Smith Institute and the British Council in Budapest, KPMG executives discussed privatization schemes with planning ministers and political party leaders.

"Since then," she says, "a number of invitations have been issued to the firm by Hungarian joint stock companies of hybrid private-

Nor is it helped by uncertain laws on property rights and an antiquated accounting system.

KPMG is, nevertheless, advising the Polish Government on privatization, with the help of the Adam Smith Institute and the financial help of the British Government's know-how fund.

Three members of the Pol-

'Demand for . . . consultancy services is constrained by foreign exchange shortages, unclear local knowledge of what consultants do . . . and by uncertainty about important macro-economic decisions'

public sector status whose ownership is in dispute."

She says until the dispute is settled, the uncertainty is "a minus in potentially discouraging foreign investors from accepting contracts, which could have obvious adverse effects on consultancy work".

Privatization is on the agenda in Poland, where a "plenipotentiary for ownership change", or privatization minister, has been appointed. Several practical problems, however, remain to be overcome on the way. Privatization is not easy without a stock exchange or a real commercial legal system.

ish privatization unit recently underwent training at KPMG's London offices, based on British experience of privatization.

In Poland and other East European countries, British companies have a traditional advantage over the West German competition, but in East Germany the opposite applies.

KPMG is starting to work in East Germany, however. It is collaborating with one of the big West German banks on providing strategic advice for companies considering the acquisition of interests in East Germany.

Why people are at the top of the problems list

People problems head the list of worries for British chief executives in the Nineties, according to a recent survey by the Management Consultancies' Association.

The problems of recruiting and keeping the right personnel are creating most anxiety in public-sector organizations and in retailing and distribution.

The main concern in virtually all sectors is that the supply of skilled and qualified staff will not keep pace with demand.

Many consultants view this as the essence of the challenge for staff management specialists. Typical of the problems faced by management are failure to attract, select, or keep high-calibre staff, ineffective organization and deployment of staff management resources, and confusion arising from inadequate job definition and unclear objectives.

Consultants are depressed by a recent MORI survey, "Blueprint for Success," which found that most British companies still believe they can solve staff problems by offering higher salaries to attract and retain staff rather than by providing adequate in-house training.

However, there are some areas of enlightenment. Bob Simm, a human resources specialist and partner in KPMG Pest Marwick, says Marks & Spencer, Ford, IBM and some accounting firms show unusual flair and imagination in their approach to training and management development.

KPMG designs programmes for its clients. A client sends a targeted manager - or, perhaps, a shortlisted applicant - to KPMG, where he or she is subjected to a series of tests to determine suitability for the position.

Staff training, particularly for management, is becoming one of the fastest-growing areas of consultancy. Five years ago, KPMG had three specialists in the area. Now it employs 120. Mr Simm attributes the increase to the

A new outlook on staff management is dawning among British business - and results are already being seen in the boardrooms

greater sophistication of clients, and the fact that more people with specialist training are reaching boardroom level.

The Government is doing its bit to help smaller companies - those employing fewer than 500 staff - which need, but cannot afford to hire, consultants' services. The Business Growth Training scheme seeks to improve staff training and management in smaller businesses.

But what of the consultants themselves? Many find fulfilment as analyst and adviser to client companies. But for others consultancy is a career move leading to a top job in active management.

Consultancy training and experience are seen as a good background for a manager, giving him or her a detached perspective and an objective approach to problems. Similarly, management consultants generally find that the more on-the-job experience a consultant has, the more practical and realistic they are likely to be as an analyst.

But not everyone has such an optimistic view. Academic ability and some problem-solving experience do not necessarily make a good manager, says Anthony Hapgood, a director of Tootal and formerly of the Boston Consulting Group. "The average consultant who has served in a consultancy for five years is very ill-practised at making decisions," he says.

The real barrier preventing industry from attracting consultant talent is pay. Industry salaries lag well behind consultants', although the gap is narrowing, Mr Hapgood says.

David Rudnick

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THE LAW

Opening the Bar door to minorities

In a recent speech on racism in the criminal justice system, the Deputy Leader of the Labour Party, Roy Hattersley, threw out a challenge to the Bar. More black judges and black magistrates were needed, he said. Changes had to be made in the choice and training of magistrates and judges to enable them to understand the problems of the ethnic minorities.

The Bar would be obliged to bring forward positive proposals to encourage more people from the black and Asian minorities to seek a career within the legal profession. He was determined to open up the profession.

What he said has long been of concern to the Bar Council. We are doing a lot already to meet Mr Hattersley's concerns. But we cannot solve these problems without help from others.

The Bar accepts that black barristers are subject to racial discrimination both from inside and, more significantly, from outside the Bar. It is determined to fight this evil. It has pressed the Government to change the law in order to ban discrimination against barristers.

It has a strong race-relations committee, chaired by a High Court judge, which reports monthly to a main committee of



The Bar is seeking to end the racism faced by black barristers from within and outside the profession. Peter Cresswell, QC, reports

the Bar Council. It has entrenched in its rules of conduct a ban on racial discrimination. It also insists on the observance of a Code of Good Practice in the treatment of pupils and tenants and the distribution of work.

Much, too, is happening on the ground. Our recent ethnic minority survey showed 6 per cent of barristers in independent practice and 12 per cent of all pupils are black. Probably 9 per cent of such barristers under five years' call are black. There are five black silks.

In 1984 black barristers were identified in only 48 sets of chambers. The figure is now nearer 180 and is growing fast. Able black barristers are now coming to the Bar and are finding places in first-class sets of chambers.

The Bar shares the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern's, optimism about the number of good quality black candidates for future judicial office who are now just below the age when they could be consid-

ered for appointment as assistant recorders.

The picture as a whole is not so encouraging. More than half of all black barristers practice from a few sets of London chambers.

There is a critical need to break down the isolation undoubtedly felt by barristers in those sets. I have visited four such sets recently, and their members talked frankly about the difficulties they faced. As a rule, white firms of solicitors do not send work to them, however well-equipped they may be to understand and serve the interests of the firm's clients.

The record of government institutions (the Crown Prosecution Service, the Home Office for immigration cases and the Customs and Excise for drug prosecutions) in briefing barristers from those sets is patchy.

Paradoxically, these barristers often have a valuable understanding of the language and customs of defendants from their own ethnic background, in addition to experience in appearing

against the Crown in such cases. These assets, however, go unrecognized.

Also unrecognized is the need to give such barristers work to equip them for future roles as immigration adjudicators, tribunal chairmen or recorders, for which they are ideally suited if British justice for ethnic minorities is to be seen to be fair.

Unequal opportunity at the start becomes more unequal if barristers do not receive work they are qualified to do because of the colour of their skin.

Last month, a party was held in Middle Temple Hall for barristers from these sets. This month, a number of these sets will be "twinned" with criminal and common law sets in a determined effort to build bridges of understanding between different sections of the Bar and to provide help to sets which are badly underfunded.

The Bar is anxious to pass back to the educational world the message that it cannot combat



Black judges needed: Hattersley



There is good will: Justice Brooke

inequality of opportunity by itself. Mr Justice Brooke, the chairman of our race-relations committee, has held meetings with representatives of more than 30 sets of London chambers. From these meetings he has learned that there is great good will to accommodate black barristers of sufficient ability in chambers across the Bar.

All too often, however, black students arrive at the Inns of Court School of Law ignorant of the Bar and its ways, and of the

need to take rapid, well-informed action to seek pupils.

The Bar's popular "mini-pupil" arrangements, where students spend a week or two in chambers during vacation, seems little known outside Oxford and London universities. Some students, moreover, seem to be getting thoroughly bad advice from law tutors and careers advisers.

None of these problems can be solved without money. Mr Hattersley attacks the Bar

because he says it is difficult to enter the profession without reasonable financial resources.

Between 1984 and 1979, Labour governments did nothing about the continuing scandal that Bar students receive maintenance and tuition grants from Local Education Authorities, which depend not on ability or aptitude but on where they live.

The Bar's difficulty is well known. It is a profession of individuals. For two years after graduation a barrister is of little economic value to anyone. There can be no charge for his services until he can represent clients. And he often does not stay in the chambers where he was trained.

The Bar Council is determined to increase the growing number of chambers pupillage awards. If this important policy succeeds, it will help the Inns of Court to divert more of its funds to help Bar students at the School of Law.

But I am fearful that unless money is made available from the Government, or from others who understand as well as we do the importance of the issues raised by Mr Hattersley, there is not likely to be enough financial help to go around to help all the black students with potential talent as advocates who LEA refuses to support at our School of Law.

• The author is chairman of the Bar

Queen's Bench Division

Law Report March 6 1990

Court of Appeal

Sale from unofficial stall not in market overt

Long v Jones and Another
Before Mr Justice Waterhouse
[Judgment February 16]

A sale in a private market held on property adjacent to a property constituted market was not in "market overt" and therefore title did not pass to the purchaser.

Mr Justice Waterhouse so held in the Queen's Bench Division when giving judgment in favour of Mr Norman Long, the plaintiff, in his action against Mr Alan Jones, the first defendant, and Mr Albert Skinner, the second defendant, for possession of a painting alleged to have been stolen from his premises.

Section 22 of the Sale of Goods Act 1893 provides: "(1) When goods are sold in market overt, according to the usage of the market, the buyer acquires a good title to the goods, provided he buys them in good faith and without notice of any defect or

want of title on the part of the seller."

Mr Timothy Higginson for Mr Long; Mr Richard Scannell for Mr Jones; Mr Skinner did not appear and was not represented.

MR JUSTICE WATERHOUSE said that a painting, "A Portrait of a Gentleman" attributed to John Brewster and painted in Philadelphia in 1819, was held by Christie's, there being a dispute as to its ownership.

It had been bought by Mr Long from an antique dealer in Eurogate for £240, in 1982 and had disappeared in October 1985 from his business premises where it had hung as a decoration.

Mr Skinner ran a stall on a disused garage forecourt adjacent to the Bernonsey and New Caledonia market but rented by him on a casual basis from a man who in turn rented it from the owner.

He had bought the painting in good faith from a Mr Little for about £140. Mr Little, however, had no title to the painting and passed none to Mr Skinner.

Mr Jones visited the market and bought the painting for £180, then putting it up for sale at Christie's.

It was claimed that good title had passed to him under the Sale of Goods Act 1979 on the basis that although the stall was not within the statutory market (there being limited circumstances under which a market could be established) the sale had been in market overt since the site was one on to which the Bernonsey market had spilled during the last ten years.

Mr Jones had said it was extremely difficult to see where the regular market ended. However, his Lordship was satisfied that Mr Skinner knew that his part was a private market, albeit endorsed by the council.

His Lordship rejected Mr

Scannell's submission that it was a market overt because trading from that position bore none of the hallmarks of the terms of the Sale of Goods Act 1893.

It had not been established by statute and the only way that the court could be convinced that it was a market established by prescription or long modern usage was if it had been open and public and legally constituted, as described in *Lee v Beyer* (1856) 18 CB 599 by Chief Justice Jervis.

The Court of Appeal, notably Mr Justice Slade, in *Bishopsgate Motor Finance Corporation Ltd v Transport Brakes Ltd* ([1990] 1 KB 322, 337) provided high authority for the proposition in *Chitty on Contracts* (26th edition (1989) paragraph 4815).

The essence of a market was its regularity, its conduct in accordance with established us-

age and the fact that it must be shown to have been established in one of the ways recognized by law - that is, by charter, by statute, by long continual user, either immemorial user or by prescription or by the principle of long modern grant.

All that had been shown in the instant case was that after the demise of a petrol station, there had developed for a period of eight to ten years a form of private outlet which was owned and run by someone with whom the second defendant had no direct contact and had none of the requirements of association with an established market run by the local council.

Therefore, Mr Jones had failed to establish a sale in market overt and no title had passed; and by purchasing and dealing with the picture he had been guilty of the tort of conversion.

Solicitors: Swingsland & Co, B. M. Birnberg & Co, Southwark.

Employee prone to injury cannot sue employer

Whitfield v H. & R. Johnson
(Times) Ltd
Before Lord Justice Purchas,
Lord Justice Beldam and Sir
Roger Ormrod
[Judgment March 2]

The mischief at which section 72 of the Factories Act 1961 was aimed was to prevent an employer from employing a person to lift or move a load of such excessive weight that it was likely to cause injury to the employee.

The likelihood of injury was to be assessed with regard to whether the weight of the load was appropriate to the sex, build, physique, or other obvious characteristics of the employee in question, and not to any individual weakness, or predisposition of his.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by the plaintiff, Susan Jane Whitfield, from a decision of Mr Justice Hobhouse dated March 1, 1989 whereby he gave judgment for the defendants, H. & R. Johnson (Times) Ltd.

The plaintiff, aged 36, who suffered from a congenital weakness of the spine was employed in the sorting and packing of tiles in the defendants' factory. The defendants neither knew nor had any reason to suspect the plaintiff's weakness.

The work of sorting and packing was done by teams of five workers, one of whom was allocated the task of unloading the tiles from a trolley on to a conveyor belt.

The plaintiff, who had been employed for 11 years, was unloading tiles on to the conveyor belt when she suffered a back injury. She sued the defendants for, *inter alia*, breach of statutory duty.

Section 72 of the 1961 Act, as amended by the Factories Act 1961 etc (Repeals and Modifications) Regulations (SI 1941 No 1974) provides: "A person shall not be employed to lift, carry or move any load so heavy as to be likely to cause injury to him."

Mr Nicholas Worsley for the plaintiff; Mr Roger Giles for the defendants.

LORD JUSTICE BELDAM said that the plaintiff's case was that the defendants were in breach of duty under section 72 because they required her to move or lift a load which was so heavy as to be likely to cause her injury.

The judge found that the congenital condition of the plaintiff's back made her specially vulnerable to injury. He described the condition as being

one in which almost any incident of everyday life might trigger the onset of arthritis that sooner or later she was going to suffer in any event.

Those findings, indicative of the degree to which the plaintiff's back was susceptible to injury, were of considerable significance to the question whether or not there was a breach of section 72.

The plaintiff argued that on the basis of the judge's findings he should have found that there was a breach of section 72: that she was employed to lift and move tiles and viewing the matter objectively it was likely that with her condition she would sustain injury.

Accordingly, on the interpretation of the words "likely to cause injury to him" in the judgment in *Bailey v Rolls Royce* (1971) Ltd ([1984] ICR 688), it was immaterial that the defendants were unaware of the weakness in the plaintiff's back which made her particularly susceptible to injury.

The plaintiff's second argument was founded on the observations in *Bailey*, in particular on the emphasis placed by the court on the use of the words "to him" at the end of section 72. They undoubtedly led the judge in the present case to his conclusion that "the defendants for the purposes of the statutory duty must take the plaintiff as she is".

The difficulty caused by the observations in *Bailey*, that the likelihood of injury had to be assessed having regard to any individual weakness, or predisposition of the employee, was that the more severe the inherent and latent weakness, the more likely it was that any risk in lifting or moving any load would cause injury to him.

On the hypothetical case referred to by Lord Justice Slade in *Bailey*, and on the facts of the present case, the likelihood of injury did not arise from the weight of the load at all. Lifting or moving an object of virtually any weight would have been likely to cause injury to the plaintiff sooner or later.

So it was said that that because of the use of the words "to him", the occupier of a factory or an employer would be in breach of section 72 if he employed a person on work which involved lifting even the lightest of loads if, for example, the employee suffered from an unsuspected aneurism and the strain of lifting caused it to burst.

So, too, an employee might be employed one week to lift a load

without any risk of injury but on the following Monday, due to a strain sustained by him over the weekend which diminished his ability to withstand the strain imposed by lifting, the same load could, on that hypothesis, be said to be likely to cause injury to the employee.

His Lordship was unable to agree that Parliament, by adding those two words, intended to make the section a result. Full meaning could be given to those words read in the context of the section as a whole by holding that they were intended to ensure that the weight of the load was appropriate to the sex, build and physique, or other obvious characteristics, of the employee in question.

To construe the section in that way did not detract from the strict nature of the prohibition against employing persons to lift loads which were so heavy that they were likely to cause injury. Nor did it depart from an objective standard.

Once it was shown that the weight of the load he was employed to lift was likely to cause injury to the particular employee, having regard to his obvious characteristics, a breach would be established.

In short, it seemed clear from the language of the section that the mischief at which it was aimed was employing persons to lift or move objects of excessive weight, or putting it another way, that the likelihood of injury to the employee had to arise from his being employed to lift an object of a weight which in all the circumstances, including the nature of the object, the grip he could take of it, the foothold he had, the space available and all the other relevant circumstances was excessive for him.

There was support for that approach in the full transcript of the judgment of the Court of Appeal in *Kinsella v Harris* (CA Transcript No 327 of 1983). The short report in ([1983] 108 SLR 14) did not mention that aspect of the judgments. In so far as the views expressed in the transcript differed from those expressed in *Bailey*, his Lordship preferred them.

On the judge's finding of fact in the present case the only view to which the court could come was that no breach of section 72 had been proved.

LORD JUSTICE PURCHAS and Sir Roger Ormrod delivered concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Tinsdall, Stone-Trent, William F Hatton & Co, Dudley.

Jurisdiction to strike out notice of appeal

Burgess v Stafford Hotel Ltd
Before Lord Justice Glidewell and Sir Denys Buckley
[Judgment February 27]

Although the Rules of the Supreme Court did not make express provision for the striking out of a notice of appeal, the Court of Appeal had an inherent jurisdiction so to do. The power to strike out should, however, be utilised only in clear and obvious cases and an order should not be made where any extensive inquiry into the facts was necessary.

The Court of Appeal so stated when awarding to Stafford Hotel Ltd the costs of its application to strike out the appellant's notice of appeal and dismissing by consent an appeal by Desmond Burgess against an order made on October 30, 1989 by Judge Simpson at Westminster County Court, dismissing his application for a new tenancy of premises owned by Stafford Hotel Ltd.

Mr Gavin Hamilton for the tenant; Mr Jonathan Brock for the landlord.

LORD JUSTICE GLIDEWELL said, with regard to the application for striking out, that there was no express provision in the Rules of the Supreme Court for striking out a notice of appeal.

In *Aviagents Ltd v Beltravest Investments Ltd* ([1986] 1 WLR 150) it was held that the Court of Appeal had inherent power to strike out an appeal where the appeal was clearly not competent.

There the matter rested until two recent unreported decisions of the Court of Appeal: *Gladium v Pentacot Lane Rentals Ltd* (May 12, 1986) and *Deerslade v Hilton International Hotels (UK) Ltd* (June 16, 1989).

In the latter case Lord Justice Staughton had said: "I turn then to the second and third points raised on this application, that this appeal is frivolous, vexatious and an abuse of the process of the court. There is jurisdiction to strike out an appeal on that ground."

"It may be that it is part of the inherent jurisdiction of the court, or else it is derived from Order 59, rule 10(1). 'In relation to an appeal the Court of Appeal shall have all the powers and duties as to amendment and otherwise of the High Court.'"

Turning to the instant appeal, his Lordship posed the question: Should the court decide that it would have been right to strike out the appeal although it was one except in relation to costs?

The first and third grounds of appeal were bad on their face. Consideration of the second ground did not show that it was patently bad on its face. The Lordships were told, however, that that matter had not been raised in the court below.

It could, therefore, only be raised in the Court of Appeal, a matter of discretion and the court would not show the right to be argued since it would mean a rehearing.

It was properly to be regarded as an abuse of the process of the court to seek to raise the matter on the instant appeal. It followed that it was right that the application to strike out the notice of appeal should have been made.

His Lordship wished to add a word of warning. The jurisdiction to strike out was just as capable of abuse as was the practice of putting in hopeless notices of appeal.

The power to strike out should be confined to clear and obvious cases and an order should not be made where any extensive inquiry into the facts was going to be necessary.

In the instant case that did not arise.

Sir Denys Buckley concurred.

Solicitors: Clamkins; Saunders Sobell Leigh & Dobbin.

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THE LAW

Different ways to the world

Leading London partnerships are forging overseas links in an effort to broaden their financial options and guarantee reliable service to clients, Edward Fennell writes

The simultaneous announcements that Nabarro Nathanson will formalize an arrangement with New York law firm Weil, Gotschal & Manges while Frere Cholmeley is to open an office in East Berlin illustrate the separate routes to internationalism being pursued by leading London partnerships.

Both firms believe, no doubt correctly, that what they are doing is right for them. But the paths they have chosen could hold no greater difference in philosophy.

More details will be available on Frere Cholmeley's move when its office opens later in the spring. But Nabarro Nathanson is frank in discussing the implications of its development with Weil, Gotschal, which is the eighth-largest firm in New York.

"This is the first time two major firms from London and New York have got together in such a close way," says Brian Clarke, the former managing partner of Nabarro Nathanson and a central figure in the negotiations.

"In the past, firms wanted to maintain a free hand in their dealings with New York lawyers. But we felt the time had come to change direction and that association was in the best interests of both our clients and our two firms."

Mr Clarke says the relationship between the two firms will continue to grow. But there will be a price to pay for the development. Referrals may cease from a number of contacts in a well-established network of firms across the United States. Negotiations with European outfits also had to be suspended while the arrangement was finalized. Because Nabarro's profile has changed significantly, the negotiations will begin again or will be dropped entirely.

"The possibility of an arrangement with Weil, Gotschal was so important that it had to take priority over other discussions," Mr Clarke says.



Nabarro's Brian Clarke: vital talks

Apart from a brief period when Nabarro's had an office in Paris, the firm has had no ambition to have its own foreign outlets. Convinced that most overseas operations end up costing more than they earn, Mr Clarke believes the best route forward for a firm such as his is through close, mutually-supportive associations.

Nabarro is already in association with Raedler, Raupach in Munich and Frankfurt. Weil, Gotschal will now share that association. In effect, what is emerging is a group of international firms which is much more explicit and tighter than the informal associations of the past.

This development is not too dissimilar from the situation in which leading national accountancy firms become part of worldwide associations while retaining their autonomy on a day-to-day basis.

"The strength of Weil, Gotschal and our importance to them guarantees our clients high-quality service in New York," Mr Clarke says.

"There's a lot of talk about the benefits of being able to pick and choose, but my suspicion is that you have to be very heavyweight indeed to get serious attention from New York lawyers. Our clients can be assured of the best service."

Nabarro and Weil Gotschal now plan to establish joint links with firms in the European Community and to begin talks in Eastern Europe. Only in Brussels might it be necessary to have the firm's own office because of the nature of work with the European Commission.

Sharing costs will make such an investment easier for both firms, Mr Clarke says. Only firms that specialise in banking, insurance, and shipping need global representation; for solid general commercial practice, like Nabarro's, a network of close relationships is more useful.

"We think we are setting a trend," Mr Clarke says. "A lot of US firms seem to be in a quandary about what to do about Europe. The expense of setting even a small office over here is a major deterrent, so I think a number of them will be looking to do similar deals to Weil, Gotschal and ourselves."

"But that's the fun of the law today. There are so many new things to do and so many ways of doing them."

INNS AND OUTS

Moves to encourage people with a mental handicap to integrate into society and live as independently as possible have begun to highlight the inadequacies of the existing legal framework, according to Adrian Ward, a Scottish lawyer, whose book, *The Power to Act*, has just been published in response to an increase in demand for information on the legal status of mentally handicapped people. Ward describes the book as a response to the questions asked by parents of mentally handicapped adults. Scottish law and English law are broadly similar, and both are substantially contained in the Mental Health Act 1983. But according to Ward, the changes made in 1984 to restrict the powers of statutory guardians appointed under the Act do not provide a sufficiently adaptable scheme. He believes, for example, that the case involving the enforced sterilization of a mentally handicapped girl arose mainly because of this inflexibility because, though guardians have the power to provide a mentally handicapped person with access to medical treatment, they do not have power to consent to that treatment on their behalf. Ward has taken a test case before the Scottish Inner Court of the House of Sessions and persuaded it to revive the old common law procedure of "tutor dative" and to modernize it by using a checklist of powers contained in an Alberta statute. English lawyers have also worked on law reform, but have got only as far as producing draft legislation.

The American Bar Association meeting in Chicago this August may witness the staging of the legal profession's own version of the *Gangfight at the OK Corral*. On one side will be the Bar's 60-strong delegation, on the other the Law Society. To prevent a public squabble the Law Society recently met with Bar representatives in an attempt to negotiate an agreement to combine forces and present a common front. The offer was rejected. The Bar has still not recovered from events at a meeting of international bars in Barcelona two years ago. One UK solicitor gave a talk on the UK legal profession, but apparently forgot to mention the Bar. A furious member of the Bar Council grabbed the microphone and filled the gap and from that day he became actively involved in the Bar's campaign to sell its services overseas — where Bar rules allow barristers to have direct access to clients. The main battleground has been the US, where leading chambers have struck up associations with major US firms frustrated by the frosty reception their offers of alliance have received from leading UK law firms. The Law Society would do well to dispel any lingering illusion it may have that the two professions have any common cause, either in the UK or abroad. If the Bar continues its subtle victories in the House of Lords, the solicitors may well find that the commercial Bar, in particular, will have its cake and eat it, home and away.

The City of London Solicitor Company Revels, held last evening and tonight at the Westminster Theatre are usually a happy affair. But this year a small note of discussion was heard among the revellers before the event. Herbert Smith had it in mind to perform a sketch based on the *West Side Story* plot, and like good lawyers they decided to check the copyright position first. Unfortunately, the UK copyright is held by Nabarro Nathanson, which refused to grant permission. Those who attended the Revels last night may already know whether last-minute negotiations saved Herbert Smith's sketch from ruin.

For those lawyers in need of a clean shirt for this afternoon's "beauty parade", or a stiffer collar for that first appearance in the House of Lords, there is a specialist laundry which delivers to your door. Shirt Point claims to be one of the few remaining laundries prepared to put barristers' stiff collars through the traditional 12-stage process to ensure that no one can faint his turnover. With the Bar looking set to retain its traditional monopoly on rights of audience, and thus the dress code governing appearances in court, the future of stiff collars looks assured — at £1.75 a shirt laundered.

Scrivenor

The negligence in litigation today

Des Wilson and Henry Witcomb suggest preventive measures

Mary Murphy won damages of £250,000 two weeks ago for the death of her husband in a road accident, which caused the family's decorating business, of which she was a director, to collapse. The settlement came four years after her former solicitor had advised her to cut her losses and accept an offer of £12,500.

The Murphy case follows the 12-year fight by the parents of Keith Blackburn, who had been severely brain-damaged in a medical accident. The Blackburns were also advised to settle for a low amount — in their case £2,000. They rejected the advice and, through sheer persistence and after changing their solicitor three times, finally received £490,000.

After the Blackburn case there were calls for the setting up of a specialist panel of medical negligence litigators to which the public

would have easy access. These calls were endorsed by the Lord Chancellor in the Green Paper. But identifying the actual mechanics of assessing and maintaining standards of competence has not proved easy.

As the Murphy case shows, the problem is not confined to medical negligence. Reg Talbot, the first director of Headway, a support group for people with head injuries, has several inquiries each week from people worried about advice they are receiving.

He cites one instance in which a 16-year-old boy sustained severe head injuries after being knocked down on a pedestrian crossing. The boy was left permanently in a wheelchair, unable to feed himself, and with serious communication difficulties. His mother became so

worried about the lack of preparation for the case that, after eight years of negotiations, she insisted on changing solicitors five weeks before trial.

Thom Osborne, a solicitor recommended by her local Headway group, is certain that a payment into court of £280,000 by the defendant would not have been beaten, given the state of the evidence at the time. The case was adjourned and within 11 weeks, Mr Osborne managed to settle it, at the door of the court, for £670,000.

The scale of the problem has been further highlighted by a study in the United States, where 40 practising lawyers were divided into pairs. Each was given an identical set of facts involving a personal injury claim and a dossier of awards in similar cases.

They were instructed to prepare for two weeks and then negotiate an agreement. The resulting settlements ranged from \$15,000 to \$95,000.

Similarly in a UK context, Hazel Genn's study, "Hard Bargaining. Out of Court Settlement in Personal Injury Actions", provides disturbing reading. Based on interviews with lawyers and claims inspectors, it says: "Plaintiffs are a heterogeneous and inexperienced group of potential litigants. Defendants are a relatively homogeneous group and are experienced specialists themselves. When defendants instruct solicitors their choice is based on knowledge of expertise. They can pay for experts and choose... solicitors whom they believe to be specialist personal injury litigators."

"When plaintiffs instruct solicitors their choice is a matter of chance... unless it is a trade union case handled by a specialist union solicitor." The study concludes that there is an urgent need to improve "the access of unknowledgeable plaintiffs to solicitors who genuinely specialise in personal injury litigation."

Two things are clear. The problem is not going to go away and, equally, will not easily be solved. The reformed complaints procedure and the proposed legal ombudsman should go a long way to raising standards. But disciplinary sanctions imposed after the event are a poor substitute for preventive measures in the form of improved pre- and post-qualification training and panels of specialist medical negligence and personal injury practitioners. The ball is in the profession's court.

© The authors are chairman and a member of the Citizen Action Compensation Campaign.

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LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

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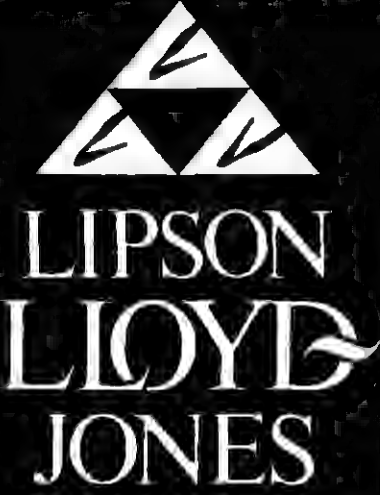
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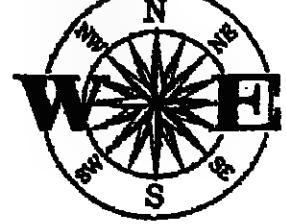
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City West End

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Ref. T27290A

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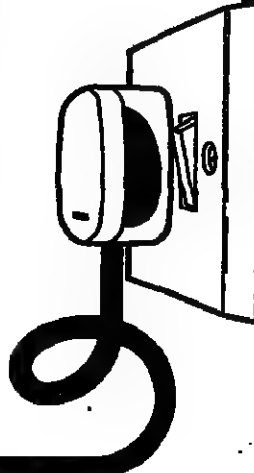
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Contact Rachel Pilgrim: 01-481 4481

ENTERTAINMENT Partner with following for major and production West End practice. Beautiful offices, salary & package commensurate with quality of candidate. Tel: Peter Landford, West End Legal Services 01-485 2062.

LEGAL Secretaries with excellent experience needed at top law firm for our most prestigious clients. For a very professional/personal service, telephone or call in for an exploratory chat with Wayne Davies at West End Legal Services, 5 Fleet Street, 01-485 2062.

WILSON SOLICITORS offered choice of litigation, Commercial and Property work in Thames Valley practice. Excellent salary and career prospects. Also several posts for newly qualified Solicitors. Contact Helen Ashworth 0754/779038, send CV to Business Back-Up, 66 St. Leonards Road, Windsor, Berks, SL4 3BT.

THAMES VALLEY. Large practice requires experienced Commercial and Property Solicitors. Excellent salary and career prospects. Also several posts for newly qualified Solicitors. Contact Helen Ashworth 0754/779038, send CV to Business Back-Up, 66 St. Leonards Road, Windsor, Berks, SL4 3BT.

Source: UK NRS, Jul - Dec 89

01-481 4481

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

01-481 4481

PENSIONS
City

to £35,000

Newly qualified to 3 years PQE Solicitors some Pension Law experience and a keenness to specialise are sought to work in the Tax and Planning Department of this medium size firm with an ever expanding case-load of 'blue-chip' clients. The work will involve a variety of advisory and planning matters. Candidates will be given the encouragement to develop more business and be offered excellent career opportunities.

DEBT COLLECTION

Central London c. £30,000

An experienced Debt Collector is sought to manage a department in medium size well-established London firm. Experience of computerised Debt Recovery is essential, along with knowledge of High Court and County Court procedures, some bankruptcy experience is also desirable. This is an excellent career opportunity for someone with enthusiasm and ability to build and develop the already busy department.

AIRCRAFT FINANCE
Central London £27,000+

Progressive and modern city practice with a wide and well-established international and domestic client-base seek recently qualified solicitors with some Aircraft Finance experience to join their busy specialist team. Excellent long-term career prospects and fringe benefits offered to candidates with good city articles.

CIVIL LITIGATION
Portsmouth £30,000

Large progressive firm with offices throughout the South of England seek experienced (3 years + PQE) Civil Litigator. The work involves some heavy cases, dealing with many major prestigious clients. Genuine prospects and excellent benefits.

For details of these or the many more positions we currently have available throughout London and the Provinces call or write with full CV to Andrew Vivian or Paul Staplehurst.

Tel: 01 236 4402
63 Carter Lane
London EC4

ASA
LAW

This isn't the best way to decide your future.

Your articles are nearly finished — what will you do next?

As a newly qualified Solicitor, the options can be bewildering. You could leave it to the last minute, risk a wrong decision, or just stick pins in and leave it all to chance.

The chances are that these won't work. Before you make your choice, you need to know the facts and assess the options. Most firms are already planning their intake of Autumn qualifiers.

To help you make the right move we have invited partners from four leading London firms to talk about the following fields:

BAKER & MCKENZIE — Company/Commercial

SLAUGHTER AND MAY — Tax

SPEECHLY BIRCHAM — Property

MACFARLANES — Litigation

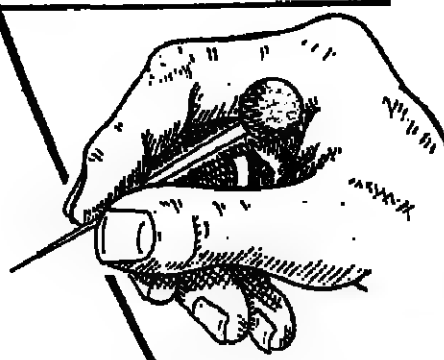
There will be ample opportunity for informal and confidential discussion with partners and assistants.

DATE — 22nd March 1990

TIME — 6.30 p.m.

PLACE — Howard Hotel, Temple Place, London WC2.

If you are interested in coming along, without obligation, or would like some more information, please fill in the coupon opposite:

COMPANY
COMMERCIAL
LITIGATION
PROPERTY
TAX

Name: _____
Address: _____
Work Tel: _____ Home Tel: _____
Date of Qualification: _____
Please tick appropriate boxes:
I wish to attend the seminar at The Howard Hotel, Temple Place, London WC2 ☐
I would like to arrange an informal discussion with a consultant on your desk ☐
Please return to Mandy Browne,
Badenoch & Clark, FREEPOST LONDON EC4B 4HN
Telephone: (01) 583 0073

BADENOCH & CLARK
recruitment specialistsADAMS & REMERS
SOLICITORS

We are a long established medium sized County firm experiencing significant expansion and urgently require:

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL
LAWYER

This is a challenging new post which would suit a Solicitor, Barrister or Legal Executive with substantial experience in general company/commercial matters.

Please write in strictest confidence to Kevin Ardagh, Messrs. Adams & Remers, 213 High Street, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 2NN or telephone him on Lewes (0273) 480616.

LEGAL ADVISER

PolyGram, with its leading record labels (Polydor, Mercury, Island, A&M, Deutsche Grammophon, Philips, Decca and London among them), is one of the largest and most successful music companies in the world.

Due to recent major acquisitions and the company's flotation, an additional lawyer (solicitor or barrister) with two to three years post qualification experience is sought for the Group Legal Department at our international headquarters in central London.

The successful candidate will be involved in many aspects, music related and otherwise, of the diverse work of an international corporate legal department.

This is an exceptional opportunity for a solicitor or barrister who has already gained commercial experience, in private practice or commerce, and who is now looking to make a career in an exciting and fast-moving business environment.

The excellent salary and benefits package will be at a level to attract the right candidate.

To apply, please write enclosing a detailed curriculum vitae to Joy Hamlyn, Personnel Manager, PolyGram International Ltd., 30 Berkeley Square, London W1X 5HA. Telephone: 01-493 8800.

PolyGram

COMPANY SECRETARIAL
ASSISTANT

City

Up to £20K

Our client, a large and successful legal firm, are seeking a number two in their growing company secretarial department.

Your main responsibilities will include statutory work, arranging of AGMs, filing of returns and updating registers. You will provide information on company law and secretarial administration both inhouse and to clients, including visits when necessary.

You will need at least a year's company secretarial experience gained in either commerce or private practice. Aged in your 30's

with a helpful manner, good communication skills and an eye for detail your dedication will be well rewarded. A good basic salary is offered together with excellent company benefits including regular pay reviews, subsidised restaurant, Private Health care and non-contributory pension after a qualifying period. A non smoker is preferred. All interviews will be held with our client but in the first instance please telephone Victoria Phillipot quoting reference number 339 on 01-603 8137

PLANNED PRE-SELECTION SERVICES

75 HAMMERSMITH ROAD, LONDON W14 8UZ

LEGAL
RESOURCES

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A fast and efficient service nationwide

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51 Doughty Street
London WC1N 2LS
Fax: 01-242 0208

ASA LAW
Service for
SOLICITORS

Can supply competent Locums Countrywide in most disciplines. Terms negotiable.

01-236 4625

Fax 01-489 8494
ASA Law, 63 Carter Lane,
London, EC4V 5HE.

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

BOOK YOUR PLACE EARLY AT THE 1996 OLYMPICS

COME TO MANCHESTER AND JOIN ITS PROGRESSIVE
FAMILY PRACTITIONER COMMITTEE

We need THREE SENIOR MANAGERS to lead a dedicated and experienced staff in implementing the White Paper proposals so as to provide the highest level of health care for the people of Manchester. The three appointees will form a senior management team who, with the General Manager, will be responsible for the planning, development and executive action required to take the City's Primary Health Care Services into the 1990s and the next century.

Business Planning and
Development

YOUR ROLE: Business planning, and management, Personnel, Training, Secretariat, Administration. Deputy to the General Manager.

YOUR PAY: £25,440-£27,520pa

YOU: Will hold a professional qualification and demonstrate relevant experience in strategic and tactical planning. Will enjoy a challenge and managerial freedom. Will lead and motivate. Be a problem solver with much initiative. Demonstrate appropriate experience.

YOU WILL ALL: ★ Want the General Manager's job. ★ Want and get managerial freedom to take action. ★ Liaise closely with a District Health Authority. ★ Be able to lead and motivate others. ★ Have distinct problem solving abilities. ★ Be offered - three year rolling contract; performance related pay; lease car.

Interested - then without more ado

Phone the General Manager, Jim Dennis, on 061-273 3136 ext 212, for an informal chat, or Edna Burns, on ext 217 will send you an information pack. Curriculum Vitae should be sent under confidential cover to: Jim Dennis, Manchester Family Practitioner Committee, 25 Higher Ardwick, Manchester M12 6BX by March 26, 1990. Interviews will take place on April 4, 5 and 6, 1990. (567A)

Finance

To design, develop and implement the business accountancy requirements. Monitor and progress financial aspects of the White Paper Reforms. Be responsible for paying 1,000 professionals in contract.

£23,520-£25,440pa

Will hold a professional qualification and have wide experience in financial planning and budgetary control. Will play a major part in the planning of Primary Care.

Information Systems

To define the information requirements of the FPC and its contractors. Design and develop systems to present information and intelligence to support management decisions. To overhaul and maintain the patient registration system.

£20,090-£22,620pa

Will hold a professional qualification and be able to demonstrate both theoretical and practical experience at the appropriate level. Will enjoy a challenge.

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

Co-ordinating Resources
to meet differing needs

Head of Administrative & Corporate Services

£26,364 - £27,822

Following a recent review the department's framework has been restructured to improve the quality of service it provides.

The department operates through two divisions namely Legal Services and Administrative and Corporate Services. This restructuring enables the department to respond effectively and efficiently to the competitive climate in Local Government and develop new approaches to the provision of services in a period of rapid change.

As Head of Administrative and Corporate Services, you'll be charged with managing and co-ordinating the work of both the Committee Services and Common Services sections, ensuring they provide a quality service by establishing efficient procedures. Participating in the Department's corporate management, you will be responsible to the County Secretary and Solicitor and advise on any matters which have corporate implications and devise effective working practices. To harness the efforts of these two distinct, yet complementary sections,

you will need to be a strong administrator, with experience at a senior level in either local government, public service or a private organisation. A graduate, you will probably also be professionally qualified (I.C.S.A. or D.M.S.). A legal background is not essential. With an active approach to solving problems, you will be able to set objectives and motivate yourself and others to achieve them.

Apart from a competitive salary, we also offer a substantial relocation package, a pension scheme, generous leave entitlement, free medical insurance and mortgage subsidy. We also operate flexitime and subsidised car leasing schemes.

For an informal discussion please telephone Ian Crookall on (0295) 383112 or Paul Thomas on (0295) 382204. Further details and an application form available from County Secretary & Solicitor, County Hall, Aylesbury HP20 1UA. Tel: Aylesbury (0295) 382940.

Closing date:
30th March 1990Buckinghamshire
County Council

County Solicitor & Deputy Clerk

Ref No: CCE/21902/T4

£41,967 - £46,164

Following the appointment of Basil Smith as Chief Executive and Clerk, and consequent restructuring, a new post of County Solicitor and Deputy Clerk has been created.

This Chief Officer post is primarily responsible for the management, direction and control of the Council's legal, administrative, committee and public relations services.

The postholder will be expected to participate fully in the corporate management of the Authority. He/she will be a member of the Chief Officers' Group which assists the Chief Executive and Clerk in fulfilling corporate objectives, and in meeting the many challenges facing the Authority.

Applicants must be qualified as a Solicitor or Barrister with specialist knowledge of the law relating to local government. Extensive management experience is required within a large, multi-purpose local authority.

Assistant Chief Executive

Ref No: CCE/21901/T4

£240,000

Following the appointment of Basil Smith as Chief Executive and Clerk, and consequent restructuring, a new post of Assistant Chief Executive has been created.

This is a Chief Officer post directly accountable to the Chief Executive and Clerk. The postholder will be expected to participate fully in the corporate management of the Authority. He/she will be a member of the Chief Officers' Group.

The postholder will be primarily responsible for the management, direction and control of the Council's corporate policy and service support functions. This includes the development and implementation of information technology and management services, the preparation and review of corporate plans, research and development functions, and co-ordination of the 'client side' aspects of competitive tendering.

Applicants must hold appropriate educational and professional qualifications and have extensive management experience involving the application of the management sciences, information and computing services.

Avon provides services for a population of nearly one million people. One of the largest service providers in the West County, it employs around 83,000 staff and spends £550 million.

The Authority can offer an attractive remuneration package which includes:

Car Leasing/Assisted Car Purchase
Generous Relocation Scheme

Mortgage Assistance where appropriate
Maternity/Paternity provision

Further details about these posts and the remuneration packages are available in an Information Pack which can be obtained by calling Bristol (0272) 298565 (Answer phone on this number after office hours). Please quote reference number. Completed application forms to be returned by 28th March 1990.

Applications are particularly welcomed from women, black people and disabled people who are under-represented at this level in the workforce (Race Relations Act 1975 section 38 (1)(b) and Sex Discrimination Act 1975 Section 48 (1)(b) apply). In the interests of health we operate a non-smoking policy.

Avon as an Equal Opportunities employer considers applicants on their suitability for the post, regardless of sex, race, disability or sexual orientation.

Avon
COUNTY COUNCIL

Continued on next page

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

IN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE WE SEE CHANGE AS OPPORTUNITY

Compulsory
Competitive
Tendering

Community
Charge

Education
Reform Act
(1988)

Care in the
Community

The world in which Local Government is operating has changed and is changing rapidly. If you are aware of these developments you will know that they are impacting on the way in which Services are planned and delivered. The changing environment of Northamptonshire together with its economic prosperity also brings fresh challenges. The growth of traffic on roads, the interest of the public in 'green' issues, the pressures on land and the requirements for skilled labour are just a few of the issues facing us and which make imperative the search for creative solutions.

To face these challenges Northamptonshire County Council has recognised that management arrangements have to be fundamentally reorganised. The first step is to create a Corporate Headquarters which will focus on the strategic management of the authority, identifying priorities and policies and translating these into programmes and plans for action.

Three new posts remain to be filled. Each one will make significant impact on the way the County Council is managed and taken forward into the 1990's.

ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE negotiable to £38,500

To provide the corporate lead in developing and implementing strategic planning and review processes. Working closely with all Service Departments you would take responsibility for the co-ordination and development of policy planning initiatives and a Performance Review Strategy which will enable the authority to fine tune its strategic direction and monitor the success of policy initiatives. This important opportunity, which provides a springboard for promotion to Chief Officer posts in Local Government, demands a degree level education supported by professional and/or managerial training. Ambition and energy, plus proven ability to contribute positively and creatively to the formulation of policy together with experience in promoting and implementing change, will be called for.

COUNTY SOLICITOR negotiable around £33,000

As the corporate legal adviser you would advise the Council, Committees, Chief Executive and Chief Officers on legal matters covering the range of County Council services. Working within the Corporate Headquarters you would provide high quality legal advice, either directly or by commissioning advice from the newly created Directorate of Professional Services, and monitoring it to ensure value for money is achieved.

In this key post you would also act as Head of Profession for all legal staff in the authority.

You will be a Solicitor of between five to ten years' standing with either Local Government or Public Sector experience. Alternatively your experience may have been gained in the private sector, possibly connected with Local Government. Managerial experience is not essential but the opportunity to develop your career by resolving complex legal and strategic problems could provide the scope for moving into a managerial role.

HEAD OF PUBLIC RELATIONS negotiable to £27,000

To spearhead a new high quality public relations function with a broad ranging brief to develop a PR strategy for the County Council. This will communicate our core values and build upon our image and profile with the community we serve, our customers and our staff.

Supporting the Directors of our operational services in their public relations responsibilities and contacts with the media, you will generate proactive publicity, and develop a range of publicity to support our philosophy and services in an innovative and interesting way.

Ideally you will have at least five years' public relations and/or journalism experience, with the ability to work creatively and articulately under pressure. Excellent organisational and communication skills are essential. Experience in Local Government is not necessary although an interest in its work is.

For all posts we offer: * Competitive salary * Subsidised Lease Car * Contributory Pension Scheme * Company Health Scheme * Relocation Assistance.

Informal enquiries are welcome. For the Assistant Chief Executive and Head of Public Relations posts contact Jeffrey Greenwell, Chief Executive on (0604) 234050. (Closing date 23rd March 1990). For the County Solicitor post contact Denis Clegg, Director of Finance and Administration on (0604) 234550. (Closing date 6th April 1990).

To receive an information pack, and application form write to Mrs. Helen Walker, Director of Personnel County Hall, George Row, Northampton NN1 1DN or telephone (0604) 236593 (24 hour answering service).



LEEDS Family HEALTH DIRECTOR, PATIENT SERVICES (£27,520 plus performance related pay and lease car)

Are you ready for the biggest challenge of your career?
Are you looking for a job where you can see the results of your efforts?

This new senior post has been created to help the professionals who deliver family health services in Leeds provide even higher standards of care and more effective programmes of health promotion.

As a member of the Management Board you will take the lead in working with the professionals on standards of service. You will advise the General Manager on setting and achieving short term and longer term policy objectives, and will commission and interpret consumer survey work. You will manage the information section.

You will need to demonstrate good interpersonal skills and a record of solid achievement, not necessarily in the Health Service.

Information pack from Scott Malloch (extension 46).
Tony Garland, General Manager, will welcome informal enquiries.

Closing date: 21 March 1990

Leeds Family Practitioner Committee
AEU House Bridge Street
Leeds LS2 7RB. Telephone: Leeds (0532) 450271
Leeds Family Practitioner Committee.

UNITED NATIONS ENGLISH VERBATIM REPORTERS EXAM

A competitive examination for the recruitment of English verbatim reporters will be held on 19 June 1990, in New York, Geneva and other locations for the purpose of establishing a roster from which present and future vacancies will be filled in New York.

Applicants must:

- Have English as their main language and an excellent knowledge of French or Spanish;
- Hold a degree from a university or institution of equivalent status at which English is the language of instruction;
- Have 3 years of experience in verbatim reporting. The Board will also consider candidates who have 3 years of experience in journalism, translation, editing or a related field;
- Be able to type at least 30 words per minute.

Candidates should also be able to operate a dictaphone and, while listening intermittently to type out this text of a recorded speech using a dictaphone.

Starting Gross base salary \$29,583 per annum plus post adjustment (\$13,323 net per annum at present but subject to change) and family allowances. Further information and application forms may be obtained by writing to:

Competitive Examination for
English Verbatim Reporters Secretariat Recruitment Section
Room 266
United Nations Office at Geneva
CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

The deadline for receiving in New York completed personal history forms from candidates is 9 April 1990.

Royal County of BERKSHIRE

Quality

A SPECIAL CHALLENGE IN PERSONAL MANAGEMENT £22,000

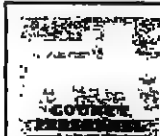
Managing human resources is demanding work at the best of times. But with the need to promote innovative personnel management solutions in an organisation of over 20,000 people operating in a range of service sectors, the Personnel Department at the Royal County of Berkshire is faced with a very special kind of challenge.

The Council's aim is to provide quality services, and the effective management of our human resources is therefore fundamental to our success. Recent press coverage has outlined our approach to the devolved management of the personnel function and the specification of the quality standards required. To help us ensure these standards are met, we now need a personnel professional to join the small strategic team at Shire Hall, Reading.

In this new role, you will advise, monitor and report on the full range of personnel activities and provide an important link between the strategic development of the personnel function and the effectiveness of operational delivery. Previous experience at operational and strategic levels in personnel management is called for, plus a real desire to demonstrate the contribution which the profession can make to the achievement of our business objectives.

The reward package is market linked to the Thames Valley, and includes a subsidised lease car of your choice and assistance with relocation if required.

To find out more about this challenging role, please telephone Bryan Jeffries on 0734 239077, or contact Christine Smith for an information pack at the County Personnel Department, Shire Hall, Shindfield Park, Reading, Berks RG2 9XA. Telephone 0734 233075.



HARINGEY HEALTH AUTHORITY

A new structure for the finance function

To implement its new responsibilities after the White Paper, Haringey Health Authority is restructuring its finance function to provide greater delegation to units - including one candidate for independent trust status - a separation of purchaser and provider roles, and a sharper focus for strategic planning and development. We therefore now need:

Director of Finance

Spine point 4: Senior Managers Pay £35,760 plus Performance Related Pay.

Required qualities include:

- an accountancy qualification plus knowledge of related spheres such as information technology, marketing and commercial management;
- top level financial management experience, with an orientation to business planning, income generation and contract specification and negotiation;
- the ability to contribute to the corporate leadership of the Authority;
- creative, analytical entrepreneurial, and communication skills;
- vision.

For an informal discussion please contact Geoff Smith, District General Manager, on 01-808 1081 ext 202.

Further information about the post and information pack are available from the District Personnel Department, Mountford House, The Green, Tottenham, London N15 4AN. Tel: 01-808 1081 Ext 210/211/212. Please quote reference number D038.

Closing date: 2nd April 1990.
Haringey Health Authority is working towards equal opportunities and welcomes application from all sections of the community.

CORONER

For the East District of South Yorkshire

£31,731 - £35,307

(plus a 5.5% salary supplement if the appointee joins the Local Government Superannuation Scheme)

The post is based in Doncaster and the Coroner's District comprises the Metropolitan Borough of Doncaster and Rotherham. The caseload for the district is in the region of 2,200 per year. You must be a barrister, solicitor or registered medical practitioner of not less than five years standing in your profession. Experience as Coroner, Deputy or Assistant Coroner would be an advantage.

Doncaster is well situated being in the centre of the motorway networks. Sport and leisure facilities are excellent and quality housing is available at reasonable cost.

Application forms and further details are available from the Personnel Unit, Chief Executive's Department, 2 Priory Place, Doncaster. DN1 1BN. Tel. Doncaster (0302) 734020.

The closing date for applications is 19th March 1990.

We are an equal opportunities employer and welcome applications irrespective of race, sex or disability.

KYLE AND CARRICK DISTRICT COUNCIL APPOINTMENT OF ARCHITECT

Scale:
P.O. 4-7 - £16,767-£18,234

Kyle and Carrick, with a population of 114,000, is located in an area of outstanding natural beauty on the Ayrshire coast and offers a high standard of urban, rural and coastal environment in which to live and work.

Applications are invited for the above post based in the Architects Department at Burns House, Ayr.

Main duties of the post will be to take charge of the Modernisation Section of the Architects Department and be responsible for meeting tenants and residents' groups and for the implementation of the Council's Modernisation and Rehabilitation Programme. Applicants should ideally have had previous experience of this type of work and have the ability to provide and maintain a quality service to meet the needs of our customers. Applicants must be a member of A.R.C.U.K./R.I.B.A.

1. Assistance with housing may be available and assistance towards relocation expenses.
2. Free life assurance.
3. Car allowance of car lease.
4. Flex-time.

If you would like to discuss the post on an informal basis please contact Alison Haughan on 0292 281511, ext. 2204.

If you simply require an application form, which should be returned by 27th March, 1990, then write to Mr W. Gilmore, A.R.I.B.A., A.R.I.A.S., M.R.T.P.I., Director of Architecture and Planning, Kyle and Carrick District Council, Burns House, Burns Statue Square, Ayr KA7 1UP.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

HARAMBEE HOUSING ASSOCIATION LIMITED DIRECTOR

SALARY: CIRCA £19,000 (Pay award pending)

Harambee is the largest Black Housing Association in the West Midlands, specialising in providing a variety of Social Housing, with a Development Programme in excess of £5 million. There are 200 units in management located in a thriving inner city area with great development potential.

The person required should have at least 3 years experience in a senior management position either in a Local Authority or Housing Association. The ability to communicate, manage staff and basic financial management is essential.

Benefits include 25 days holiday plus statutory days, contributory Pension Scheme, Essential Car User Allowance (Generous subsidy to assist with car purchase).

For an application form please telephone or write to:

Mrs M. McKinn, Harambee Housing Association Ltd, Soho House, 362-364 Soho Road, Handsworth, Birmingham B20 9OL. Telephone 021-523 4421. Closing Date: Friday, March 16, 1990. (This is a re-advertisement)

DIRECTOR OF FUNDRAISING for A ROYAL CHARITY

You will be experienced in major fundraising especially big gift and major asking power.

A remuneration package commensurate with this important role will be available.

Please write with full CV to:
The Chairman
CFP Limited, 23 Grove Park,
White Waltham, Maidenhead,
Berkshire SL6 3LW

cfp

ENVIRONMENTAL CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Groundwork is the fast-growing network of charitable companies which concentrate on restoring the damaged environment. In and around our most cities by harnessing the resources and skills of the whole community. The Groundwork network needs dynamic people who are looking to work in partnership with the public, private and voluntary sectors to bring about positive change.

Commercial Manager

Blackburn Circa £20,000
The Commercial Manager will handle finance, administration and public relations for the Trust. He will also provide a general management input across all trust programmes. Initially, the successful applicant would design and develop a range of financial management systems, and establish solid commercial discipline; then move on to supervise our business development programme. Ideally the Trust will be looking for a locally based person with a range of managerial experience including financial and accounting and who cares about the environment.

Projects Team Manager

Blackburn Circa £20,000
The Projects Manager will be responsible for the development, design, funding, implementation and delivery of the Trust's ground and environmental landscape projects. The successful candidate will demonstrate experience in landscape development, design, and countryside management issues, as well as in people, financial and project management. The ideal person would be a dual qualified Landscape Architect and Architect, with considerable management experience and possessing the major experience of full range of landscape design, development and implementation of projects. Please apply in writing for other post too.

For an informal discussion please contact Peter Williams, The Blackburn Groundwork Trust, Whitehall Park (Plot 2), Blackburn BB1 4DP.

barnet FINANCIAL SERVICES

The Progressive Face of Finance

Barnet is one of London's largest boroughs with a responsible and progressive attitude to financial management. It's an environment where ambitious accountants can recognise and realise their potential.

Currently, we have a range of promising openings on offer.

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT

£16,308-£23,044 pa inc.
Market Factor and Performance Supplement + casual car user allowance

Acting as Deputy Team Leader in a section dealing with the financial management of various council services will prove a valuable opportunity for a recently qualified CIPFA or an experienced SAT to gain direct management experience. Ref: 6156/99

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT

£16,308-£17,655 pa inc.
+ casual car user allowance

The primary function of this role is to provide a co-ordination role in respect to capital expenditure and income monitoring for all services. You will also be involved in the Housing Accountancy Section's provision of financial services and in initiatives proposed by the Housing Directorate.

We are seeking an experienced SAT or part qualified CIPFA member who will be able to communicate fluently and produce reports relating to capital expenditure. Ref: 6156/98

ACCOUNTANT

£12,579-£16,722 pa inc.

You will have specific responsibility for the accounting function of various Council Services. At minimum you should be an Accounting Technician and/or possess CIPFA Part 1 and be actively studying for the next stage. Ref: 6156/111

Closing date: 16th March 1990.

Application forms available from the Recruitment Office, London Borough of Barnet, 18/17 Sentinel Square, Brent Street, Hendon, NW4 2EN. Tel: 01-202 8282 ext 2372 (01-202 8602 outside office hours).

AN AUTHORITY COMMITTED TO EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

LONDON BOROUGH
barnet

UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM THE BOOKER CHAIR IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN THE SERVICE SECTOR

Applications are invited for this new Chair at Durham University Business School. The Chair, which is being funded by Booker PLC, offers an exciting opportunity to develop a national centre in the field of retail and service sector entrepreneurship. The Booker Professor will work with the Durham Small Business Centre which has a worldwide reputation in the field of Entrepreneurship and Small Business.

A contract will be offered for five years in the first instance.

The salary will be by negotiation at a point within the span of professional salaries at Durham initially £27,000 to circa £30,000 per annum.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Personnel Officer, University of Durham, Old Shire Hall, Durham, DH1 3HP, to whom applications (12 copies) should be submitted, including the names of three referees, not later than Friday 23rd March 1990. (Candidates outside the British Isles send submit one copy only.)

M.B.A. COURSE FEATURE will be appearing on

THE TIMES

19th March 1990

THE SUNDAY TIMES

18 March 1990

To advertise in this section please telephone
Claire Kaufman on
01 481 1066

The Sunday Times and The Times reach over 300,000 Businessmen - the highest coverage of all quality national. Source: BMRC 1988.

HORIZONS

In the eye of the storm

The Meteorological Office is about to open a new, multi-million pound Centre for Climate Prediction and Research next to its head office in Bracknell, Berkshire. "We are planning for up to 100 years ahead; we've got to have facts to advise government about the greenhouse effect, the ozone layer, temperature rises - climate changes," said Colin Macey, a weather forecaster who now manages the personnel department.

He and his colleagues will interview graduates and more senior scientists who respond to recruitment advertisements appearing in the national Press, to staff the new centre. They must have a career commitment to the vagaries of climate, studied through highly computerized, mathematical modelling and scientific global monitoring.

A visit to headquarters in Bracknell, where nearly half of the total 2,000-strong workforce is employed, is a revelation. In the hub of operations - the Central Forecasting Office - arrays of screens portray coloured images interpreting data from radar and satellites, from numerous observers, from ships and planes.

One section, named Frontiers (Forecasting Rain Optimized Using New Techniques of Interactively Enhanced Radar and Satellite Data) was being manned by Tony Burgess, who also looks after storm tides.

"Last night," he says, "I warned Southwold on the east coast that

Quick-thinking scientists make good meteorologists, Ann Hills writes

tide and wind could generate a surge". In the event, it was a few inches below flood level.

There is a unit for airline pilots, who are provided with charts plotting fronts and wind speeds over flight paths. Former sea captains, including Captain Donald Hewitt - a sailor for 27 years who would "rather be here than at sea in a force 10" - provide forecasts for ships.

They combine their previous experience with skills mastered here.

Individual vessels, such as the Queen Elizabeth II, pay for up-to-date forecasts for the duration of a voyage, usually across the Atlantic. Typically, this liner may recoup the one-off fee of £350 by avoiding gales.

The forecasting office is manned 24 hours a day, every day, backed by supercomputers which digest millions of items of information, around the clock, building up pictures which enable weathermen to publish patterns for the following hour, day and week ahead. In the future this could be extended to 10 days as a new Cray supercomputer comes into operation.

Reassuringly, human beings still draw and colour charts, using experience to enhance computerized calculations. "There is a human element at every stage, but

no use for little foibles," says Kim Turner, a 31-year-old forecaster now employed in personnel.

This lively and colourful centre is exciting and, though the staff use measured terms, it is apparent that many a forecaster began - as did Mr Macey - measuring rainfall, temperature and wind speed during childhood. The Met Office remains the prime source of employment for weather forecasters. With an annual budget nudging £90 million, this national service can afford pioneering computerization. It has its own in-service college running courses, from one day to five months long (also taking in fee-paying foreign students). It has a library, archive and museum.

Above the ground, the Met Office flies a Hercules transport plane, nicknamed "Snoopy", which was recently deployed investigating ozone layers over the Arctic, combined with other European and American studies. Overseas, the Met has strong links with international networks across political boundaries. Increasingly, the implications of global pollution will dominate research in the coming years.

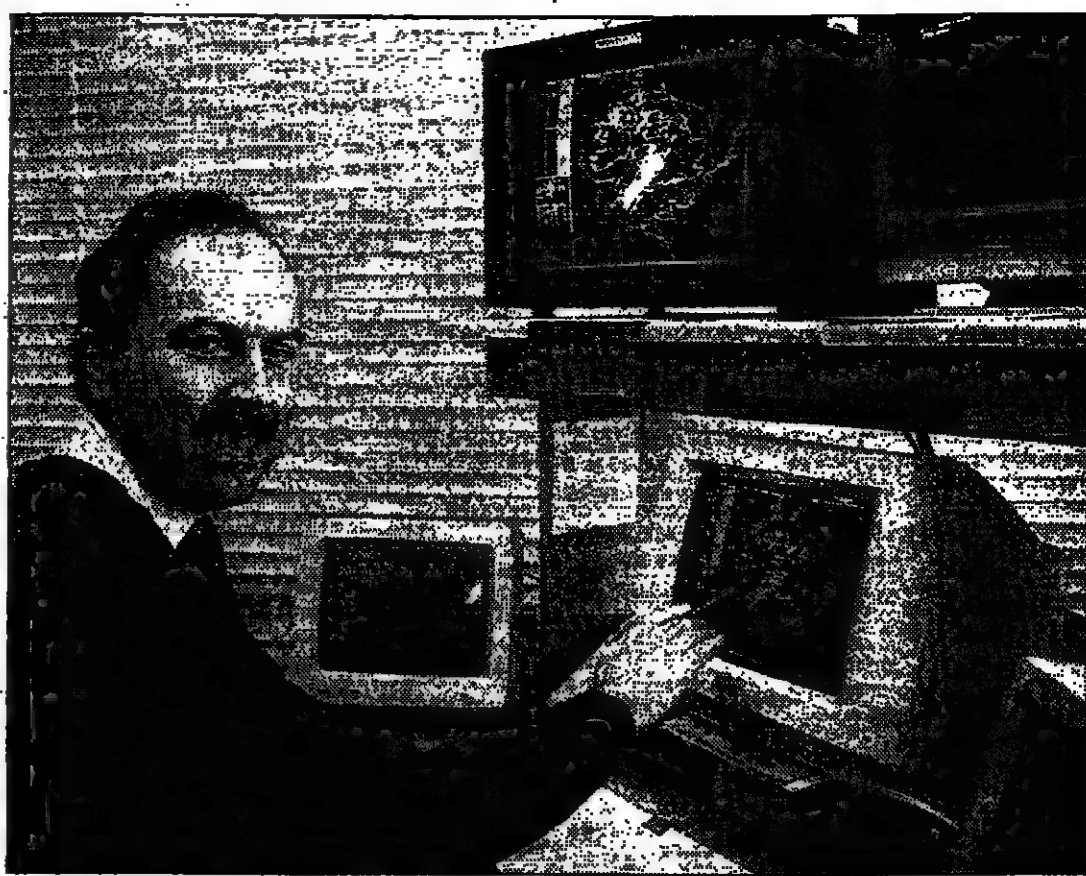
"Our research is very long-term, very important and complex. I can't imagine any other problem I

could work on which would allow such an opportunity to pursue original research," says James Murphy, 31, who has a first-class degree in physics from Manchester University.

He will be a key member for the new centre for climatic prediction, where he imagines he could progress "for 30 years without being bored". Mr Murphy, who joined the Met in 1981, has already made his mark in developing extra accuracy in using numerical modelling to interpret computerized forecasts.

The Met Office staff want to be seen as professional, accountable and available to the public, but while a few become television personalities, most remain anonymous civil servants, working 42 hours a week, starting on salaries of £10,000-£11,000, rising to above £30,000 for the director general. Many work shifts. In Bracknell and in more than a dozen regional centres (the most recently opened of them in Aberdeen), these dedicated scientists discover their rates of successful forecasting within hours. A "good day" to them is a day well predicted, even if the sun is not shining.

"It's quite flattering that people complain when we get the weather forecast wrong. Several years ago they did not expect it to be right," says BBC Television's forecaster, presenter Suzanne Charlton. Miss Charlton, 27-year-old daughter of footballer Bobby Charlton, decided that meteorology would be her career in her early teens. She



Weather eye: Tony Burgess operates Frontiers, a computer rain-forecasting system using radar and satellites

read physics and meteorology at Reading University, after which she joined the Met Office as a support scientist at Bracknell, with additional responsibilities for the computer at Heathrow Airport.

"A circular went around asking if anyone was interested in TV work, and I told my boss I'd like to get my name on file." That led to career advances as a forecaster and part-time training for television, with her first broadcast in March 1989, as one of a team of six. Most of the time she is working

and researching on her own, preparing right up to the last minute, with the actual presentation live, without notes. "If necessary, as time runs out, I can summarize the weather in four or five words". That, she adds, could not be done by anyone without professional knowledge. Just before one of the winter gales she had to present the forecast on the European Superchannel, without as much information as was available for Britain. "I said it would be dangerous to be out. I

was right. Sadly, people died on the Continent."

Miss Charlton is about to take time off from television while she undertakes an advanced course. She'll be back on the screens in the summer, glad to have a challenge "to get my teeth into, using the wonderful graphics now available".

For further information: Kim Turner, Recruitment Section, Room 612, Meteorological Office, London Road, Bracknell, Berks RG12 2SZ. 0344 856034

01-481 1066

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

01-481 1066

CLEVELAND CONSTABULARY
APPOINTMENT OF
CHIEF CONSTABLE

Applications are invited for the post of Chief Constable of Cleveland Constabulary which will become vacant on 1st August 1990, upon the retirement of the current Chief Constable.

The salary will be £46,713 per annum plus appropriate allowances.

An application form and further details can be obtained from A.J. Hodgkinson, Clerk to Cleveland Police Authority, Cleveland County Council, P.O. Box 100A, Municipal Buildings, Middlesbrough, Cleveland, TS1 2QH.

Closing date for receipt of applications - 23rd March, 1990.

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Your work will be mainly involved with litigation, common law and giving general advice to all departments of the Council, its Committees and its Members.

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If you are seeking a challenging career in Local Government law and are capable of working on your own initiative then we would like to hear from you.

If you wish to discuss the post in more detail please ring Janet Bowen, the Borough Solicitor, on West Malling (0732) 844522 ext. 3225. Alternatively, request an information pack and application form from the Personnel Section, or phone ext. 3259, quoting Appt. No. 515.

Interviews will take place on 29th/30th March 1990.

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For further details and an application form, please telephone 01-260 1110 or write to the City Engineer, P.O. Box 270, Guildhall, London, EC2P 2EJ.

Closing date for applications: Wednesday, 28th March 1990. (It is anticipated that interviews will be held in the week commencing 9th April.)



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We want a legal professional who is keen to face the considerable challenge of working in the Legal Department of a large and diverse London Borough as the legal adviser to the Council's Social Services Department.

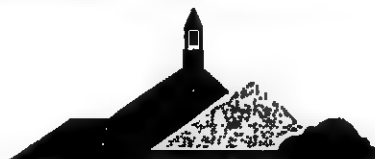
You should be prepared to take a leading role in formulating the Council's policies in relation to new legislation in the field of Social Services.

The successful applicant may be a Solicitor, Barrister or Legal Executive but will have had at least 2 years' experience of advising and representing clients in social services matters, and a detailed knowledge of child welfare law is essential.

The benefits of working for Hillingdon include 100% relocation expenses; a settling-in allowance; lodging/commuting allowance; flexible working hours and a 9 day fortnight.

Job Share will be considered for this post. If you would like to have an informal discussion regarding this post then please contact Roy Nicholas, Principal Solicitor, on (0895) 50658.

Application forms, quoting reference number BS/14/24XE, are available from the Personnel Division, Civic Centre, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 1UW. Telephone Uxbridge (0895) 50589 (24 hour answering service available). Closing date 14 March 1990.



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Phone 01-304 5211

for full details and application form.

Closing date: Monday 19th March 1990.

Interviews to be held: Tuesday, 27th March 1990.



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WHAT FOR

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ACTION

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Officer, Town Hall, Bridgwater, Somerset TA6
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INTERESTED?

For an informal discussion please telephone
Christopher Gibson, The Clerk of the Council (ext
321) Closing date: Monday 19th March

RHSAC

RIVERSIDE, HOUNSLOW AND
SPELTORNE AUDIT CONSORTIUM

To provide a progressive, comprehensive and effective Internal
Audit Service to the Riverside, Hounslow and Speltorne Health
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organization.

The Consortium is currently seeking to recruit additional team
members to the following posts:

SENIOR ASSISTANT
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AUDIT ASSISTANTS

Circa £11K

Actual salaries, which will be reviewed in April, will depend on
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season ticket loan, subsidised restaurant, and canteen facilities.

These posts will provide extensive experience of Internal Audit
duties across a wide range of services/activities and emphasis
will be placed on the development and training of team staff.
Further information may be obtained by contacting: Peter Hunt,
Assistant Director/Head Manager on 01-845 7271.

For an application form and job description please contact:
District Finance Department, Brandenburgh House, 118 Fulham
Palace Road, London W6. Tel: 01-845 7434 or 01-845 7485.

Closing date: March 26, 1990. (654)A
Interview date: week commencing April 2, 1990.

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operational decisions in a fast moving dynamic environment.
The postholder will have responsibility for a staff of 75 and will
therefore need to manage and direct all related human resource
issues.

This is a front line role and embraces the whole range of the
Authority's activities and thus requires that the candidate can
demonstrate experience in such a role, where adaptability and a
team approach are key aspects. Professional qualification in a
management or financial discipline is desirable, but the
emphasis is on practical experience.

An information pack is available from Helen Cox at Essex Family
Practitioner Committee, Camarvon House, Camarvon Road, Clacton-
on-Sea, Essex CO15 6QD, telephone 0255 221222 ext. 250. For an
informal discussion please contact the General Manager, Graham
Butland, on ext 221

Closing date for applications is 31 March

ATHLETICS

Inquiry is called for into what went wrong in Glasgow

By David Powell, Athletics Correspondent

As a leading officer of the European Athletic Association (EAA) warned yesterday that the body "would be very careful before granting such future competitions to Britain", the British officials said that inquiries would be held into the problems which plagued the 21st European indoor championships at the Kelvin Hall, Glasgow, at the weekend.

"The championships did not go smoothly and there is no doubt there were mistakes on our side," Bob Greenock, the secretary of the Scottish Amateur Athletic Association and the local organizing group's meeting manager, said. "I can't understand why these things should have happened because all our officials were experienced. I am going to call a meeting to try to resolve it. This sort of thing has never happened in all the time I have been in athletics and it's happened at the most important meeting I have been involved in. It's depressing."

The howlers included the incorrect positioning of hur-

dles, which forced a women's semi-final to be rerun, the simultaneous starting of the men's 3,000 metres final and the East German national anthem saluting Jens-Peter Herold's win in the 1,500 metres, and the publication of wrongly drawn heats.

Tony Ward, the spokesman for the British Amateur Athletic Board, the host body with overall responsibility, said: "We are very concerned at what happened. We have not had a post-meeting analysis yet but clearly that will happen. A number of things went wrong and we accept that mistakes were made. We have to analyse what they were and why they occurred. Some of us at the board are embarrassed. There was a distinct lack of experience in certain quarters."

Ward added that he did not expect the mistakes to jeopardize Britain's efforts to stage important championships in the future, drawing attention to what happened as being "in sharp contrast to the highly successful staging of the European Cup in Gateshead last year". However, Pierre Das-

riaux, the EAA secretary, said: "I think the EAA council would be very careful before granting such future competitions to Britain."

In recognizing that the weekend's championships "had not been one of the best organized", he put forward a personal view of why. "The Kelvin Hall is not a top-class stadium and it was not easy to run the championships in this area. I had the feeling that the competition was not in the full control of the British board. And the third point is that perhaps there was not the [computer] technical expertise which is normal for international competition."

While the British board is the body to which the bid was granted by the EAA, Glasgow City Council, which invested £750,000 in upgrading facilities, acted as organizers. The council spokesman, David Bell, said that it would not be dissuaded from making future applications. "We are keen to attract as many major international meetings as possible. It would not be beyond our hopes that we can make a serious bid again for the European indoors."

GOLF: THE GREAT WHITE SHARK SWALLOWS UP THE BLUE MONSTER



Predatory eyes on a second eagle: Norman at the first hole of the sudden-death play-off, which he won in glorious fashion

Norman's year of the eagle

From John Ballantine, Miami

Greg Norman may have the last laugh on Americans who have called him a superstar with feet of clay. The Australian, after winning the Doral Ryder Open in the most dramatic finish of the season, probably has built great year on the US tour that was predicted for him when he joined it in 1983.

In eight seasons he has won eight tournaments but no major titles. He has failed narrowly several times, notably in the 1984 US Open, where he lost a play-off to Fuzzy Zoeller, and in the 1987 Masters, in which Larry Mize holed a long chip to beat him again in a play-off.

But perhaps only Jack Nicklaus in his heyday could have equaled the Great White Shark's achievements on Sunday here on the 6,939-yard "Blue Monster" course.

Seven strokes behind the leaders, Paul Azinger and Fred Couples, as the stars, Norman broke the course record with a 62, which included eight birdies and an eagle three at the 528-yard eighth, where he holed a pitch of 100 yards over the lake. He then had an hour's wait for the 18th hole, where he had to make a four-man play-off, which Norman won by chipping in from 30 feet for his second eagle of the day at the 514-yard first hole.

FINAL SCORES (US OPEN SCORING): 6 Norman (62), 67, 73, 66; 7 Couples (63), 68, 70, 69; 8 Azinger (64), 69, 71, 68; 9 Mize (65), 70, 72, 68; 10 Putnam (66), 71, 73, 68; 11 Edwards (67), 72, 74, 68; 12 Seiver (68), 73, 75, 69; 13 Gledhill (69), 74, 76, 70; 14 Adams (70), 75, 77, 71; 15 Lutz (71), 76, 78, 72; 16 Lantz (72), 77, 79, 73; 17 Morgan (73), 78, 80, 74.

Woosnam will no longer be dining on beans and crisps

From Mitchell Platts, Golf Correspondent, Marbella

Jim Woosnam had little cause to complain as he shook off the effects of a gruelling eight-hour overnight journey from the Costa del Sol to Madrid. As the inaugural winner of the Mediterranean Open, he was returning home to Oswestry £26,660 richer than when he left it. You could almost hear his bank manager chirping: "That should do nicely, Mr Woosnam."

Eight years ago the same bank manager would have questioned giving Woosnam a small loan, let alone allowing him to play with a Gold Card. For the Welshman was on the breadline, surviving by his own admission, on a diet of beans and crisps. He has neither forgotten that, nor his roots.

It was quite like the old days as, with other Ryder Cup players, he had to take a coach, hastily hired because Gibraltar airport was shut. Woosnam spent his formative years on the European tour, travelling from venue to venue in a van which he doubled as his hotel. Consequently, he has discovered that being 5ft 4in tall has its compensations.

Yesterday, back home in Oswestry, Woosnam set about arranging his week's programme. It will include three or four games of golf on local par 71s to finish at 284.

"When you get on a roll like this you just go with it," Daniel, who also last week's Hawaiian Open, said. "I have always been a streaky player and I am definitely on a hot streak right now." It was her twentieth win in 11 years on the tour.

Davies balanced three birdies with three bogeys on the day. "I knew coming down the 18th that I needed an eagle to tie the Beth Daniel," Davies said. "I gave it my best shot but did not get on the green in two." Davies

chipped up to eight feet and holed the putt for a birdie and a share of second place.

LEADING FINAL SCORES (US OPEN SCORING): 11 Woosnam (62), 67, 73, 66; 12 Seiver (68), 73, 75, 69; 13 Gledhill (69), 74, 76, 70; 14 Adams (70), 75, 77, 71; 15 Lutz (71), 76, 78, 72; 16 Lantz (72), 77, 79, 73; 17 Morgan (73), 78, 80, 74; 18 Putnam (66), 71, 73, 68; 19 Edwards (67), 72, 74, 68; 20 Seiver (68), 73, 75, 69; 21 Gledhill (69), 74, 76, 70; 22 Adams (70), 75, 77, 71; 23 Lutz (71), 76, 78, 72; 24 Lantz (72), 77, 79, 73; 25 Morgan (73), 78, 80, 74; 26 Putnam (66), 71, 73, 68; 27 Edwards (67), 72, 74, 68; 28 Seiver (68), 73, 75, 69; 29 Gledhill (69), 74, 76, 70; 30 Adams (70), 75, 77, 71; 31 Lutz (71), 76, 78, 72; 32 Lantz (72), 77, 79, 73; 33 Morgan (73), 78, 80, 74; 34 Putnam (66), 71, 73, 68; 35 Edwards (67), 72, 74, 68; 36 Seiver (68), 73, 75, 69; 37 Gledhill (69), 74, 76, 70; 38 Adams (70), 75, 77, 71; 39 Lutz (71), 76, 78, 72; 40 Lantz (72), 77, 79, 73; 41 Morgan (73), 78, 80, 74; 42 Putnam (66), 71, 73, 68; 43 Edwards (67), 72, 74, 68; 44 Seiver (68), 73, 75, 69; 45 Gledhill (69), 74, 76, 70; 46 Adams (70), 75, 77, 71; 47 Lutz (71), 76, 78, 72; 48 Lantz (72), 77, 79, 73; 49 Morgan (73), 78, 80, 74; 50 Putnam (66), 71, 73, 68; 51 Edwards (67), 72, 74, 68; 52 Seiver (68), 73, 75, 69; 53 Gledhill (69), 74, 76, 70; 54 Adams (70), 75, 77, 71; 55 Lutz (71), 76, 78, 72; 56 Lantz (72), 77, 79, 73; 57 Morgan (73), 78, 80, 74; 58 Putnam (66), 71, 73, 68; 59 Edwards (67), 72, 74, 68; 60 Seiver (68), 73, 75, 69; 61 Gledhill (69), 74, 76, 70; 62 Adams (70), 75, 77, 71; 63 Lutz (71), 76, 78, 72; 64 Lantz (72), 77, 79, 73; 65 Morgan (73), 78, 80, 74; 66 Putnam (66), 71, 73, 68; 67 Edwards (67), 72, 74, 68; 68 Seiver (68), 73, 75, 69; 69 Gledhill (69), 74, 76, 70; 70 Adams (70), 75, 77, 71; 71 Lutz (71), 76, 78, 72; 72 Lantz (72), 77, 79, 73; 73 Morgan (73), 78, 80, 74; 74 Putnam (66), 71, 73, 68; 75 Edwards (67), 72, 74, 68; 76 Seiver (68), 73, 75, 69; 77 Gledhill (69), 74, 76, 70; 78 Adams (70), 75, 77, 71; 79 Lutz (71), 76, 78, 72; 80 Lantz (72), 77, 79, 73; 81 Morgan (73), 78, 80, 74; 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